MAY 2006 Rs.8/- 88 Pages

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

FREE ACTIVITY PULL OUT

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FIERY SUN,
GLORIOUS BLOOM!

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MAY 2006
Vol. XVII, No.11

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

GOKULAM
THE Magazine for Children

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THE Magazine for Children

PEACE PIGEONS AND QUACKS!

Dear Reader,

The dailies are full of sensational news items especially at this time when the election fever has gripped one and all. But two news items affected me much more than all the rest and they had nothing to do with the elections.

I refer to the news about children in Punjab and other north western States who collected thousands of signatures of other children to a letter addressed to Pakistani children, looking forward to peace in future. "How wise these children are" I thought. "Wiser than all the leaders of the world who think that weapons of mass destruction will bring peace!" Peace will prevail only if love swells in our hearts and flows towards our neighbours. Along with peace comes all other goodies, like a better economy and welfare of the people.

The other news item, which angered me, was about doctors who copied shamelessly while writing entrance exams for post - graduate studies. They used the most modern techniques but were caught! How can we entrust our lives to such quacks? Dishonest doctors are worse than ignorant doctors but if a doctor is both ignorant and dishonest, God save that noble profession!

- Editor

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GOKULAM CALIBRE COMICS
For Wholesome Development...

Is Harry the heir of Gryffindor? Maybe...!

HARRY-HEIR

1. When Harry tried out his wand in Ollivanders' (Book-1) **red and gold sparks** flew out. Red and gold are the colours of the Gryffindor house.

2. McGonagall mentions in Book 1 that the Potters lived in **Godric's Hollow**.

3. In Book 2, after Harry pulls out Gryffindor's sword from the hat, Dumbledore said that **"only a true Gryffindor could have pulled that out of the hat".** Could this have a deeper meaning?

4. Harry was born on July 31st. In the zodiac calendar; this would be **Leo (lion)** which is the **Gryffindor mascot**.

5. Gryffindor's sword is studded with **rubies, the birth stone of July**.

6. The sorting hat probably could not decide where to put Harry, because he has Gryffindor's blood as well as Voldemort's part (Slytherin).

-S.Kiran Kumar, Std XI,
Maharishi Vidya Mandir HSS,
Chennai

Now we know that Harry has his mother's eyes and many people have commented on it, in fact too many people. Why should so many people remember Lily's eye colour? Since it is the colour of the Celtics it is possible that she had some Celtic roots. Celtic magic (the magic of the elves) is ancient magic, which is what Dumbledore said was protecting Harry at Privet Drive through his mother's blood.So, Lily may have had a little elf magic in her

without a wand. It is rumored that Lily's back-story will play an important role in Book 7. Could this be the reason?

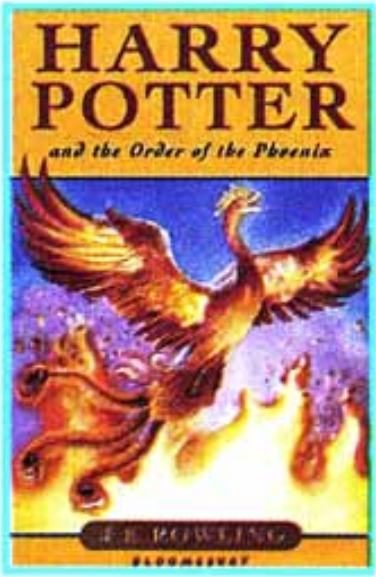
- S.Varsha, Mumbai

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

# of GRYFFINDOR?

from way back in her family line, and she passed this on to Harry.

Now the elf we know is Dobby. He has the same colour eyes as Harry. He can perform magic which most wizards cannot, without a wand. He does this all the time, although he shouldn't be doing it at Hogwarts. We have seen Harry perform magic- some really advanced stuff- like blowing up his aunt,



sold at the rate of 21 books per second; the number of copies sold in the United Kingdom on the first day itself would create a stack 12 times the height of Mt. Everest!

If a person were to read each copy of Harry Potter ever sold, it would take 7000 years!

-Samrudhi.S
Std VIII,
S.M Arya Public School, New Delhi

Source: Various Potter websites

HOLIDAY PLAY!

Happy Holidays! The long summer vacation is indeed the best time in the year for children. However the oppressive heat during the day, plays spoilsport. But don't let that spoil your holidays. With a little bit of imagination one can have fun indoors even during the hottest of summers.

By 'Holiday play', I am not referring to playing Scrabble or Snakes and Ladders or Business. (Not even to Gokulam's activity pull out!) How

WAKE UP THE POET IN YOU!

Is it too hot to go out and play? Have fun writing funny verses. Read them to your friends and laugh away.
Here's how:
Choose a word - say 'hot'
Write a few other rhyming words - not, cot, lot
Now write your verse:

It was so sunny and hot
That play outside I could not
Instead I sat on the cot
And grumbled and grumbled a lot!

A few other examples are given. Read them. Then create your own.

about putting up a play during the holidays? Get your friends to participate. You may either think up a plot or use a good story. You might have to pen the dialogues. Then comes the task of alloting roles and rehearsing. Improvised costumes can be designed. Make your crowns and swords, wherever necessary. Once you are ready, invite your parents and grandparents and others and give them a surprise. *(Your mother might give you a hand with the dress designing, 'stage' setting or even act as the prompter backstage!)*

This activity can be pursued even if you go over to your grandparents place for the vacation. Rustle up the cousins and kids in the neighbourhood and give them the time of their lives! Who knows, you might succeed in dragging away all the adults from their favourite T.V. serials! Try it out this summer and let us know!

- P.R.

Once I spotted a shell
And with it cast a spell
Which forced me to tell
Hey ye! Go to hell!

There was once a boy,
Whose first name was Roy
He pretended he was very coy,
In order to win a toy.

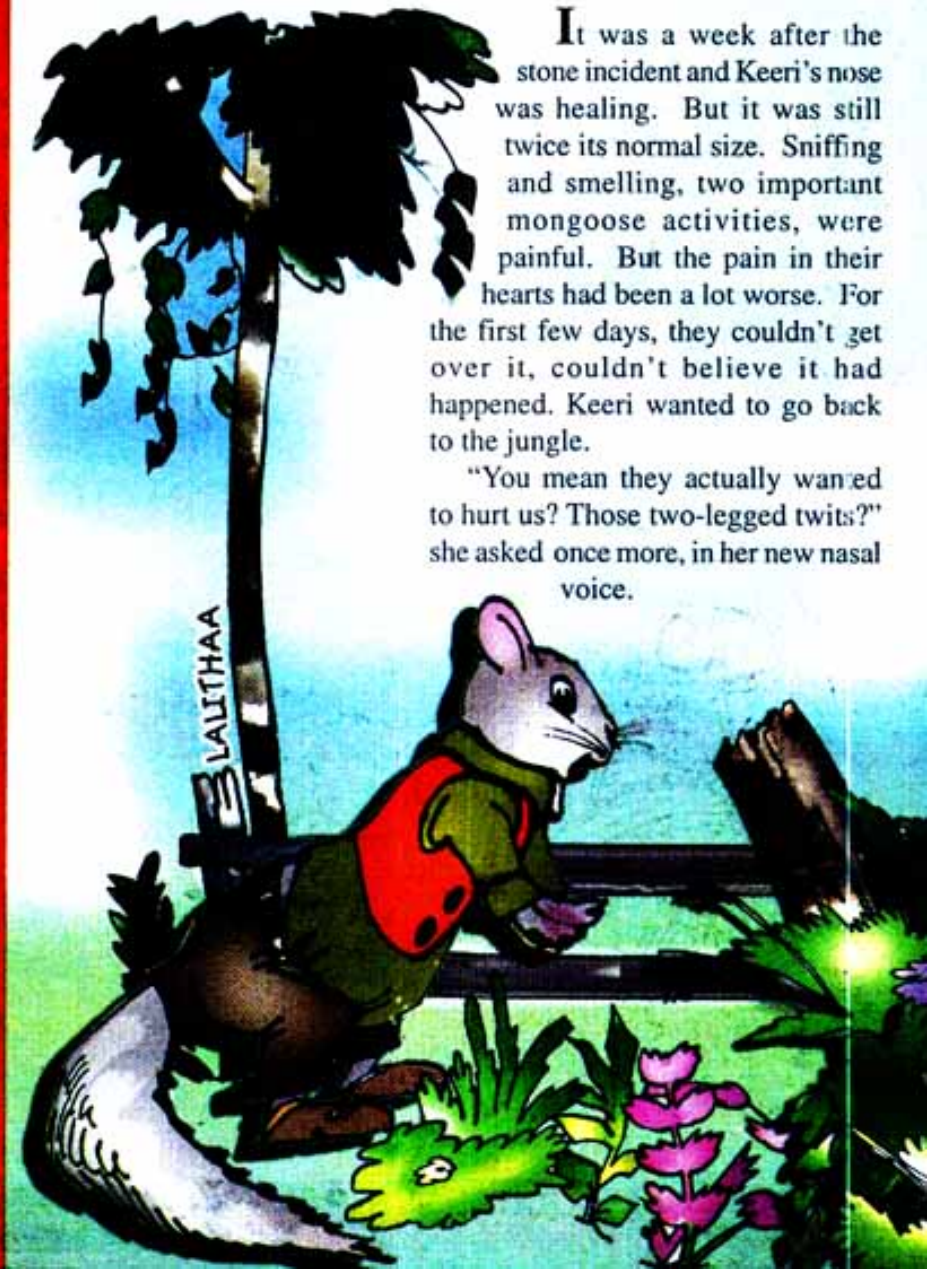
There was this pretty girl,
Who had a lovely curl,
In joy she would twirl,
When she saw the flag unfurl.

- Shoba Ranjit Singh,
Chennai

They had never experienced anything like this before. Their hearts turned somersaults. Gundu looked at Keeri; like him, she was paralyzed with fright. Something had come flying through the air, and now he saw that it had hit her on the nose. Her poor nose was bleeding like a tap. The herd in the water was making a much bigger noise now. Another object- a bigger stone- was flying towards them. They ran.

It was a week after the stone incident and Keeri's nose was healing. But it was still twice its normal size. Sniffing and smelling, two important mongoose activities, were painful. But the pain in their hearts had been a lot worse. For the first few days, they couldn't get over it, couldn't believe it had happened. Keeri wanted to go back to the jungle.

"You mean they actually wanted to hurt us? Those two-legged twits?" she asked once more, in her new nasal voice.



"Yes, I think they did," answered Gundu once more.

"Well, let's go back to the jungle," said Keeri once more. And, once more, Gundu nodded a sort of halfway nod, a Maybe Nod. Maybe Nods were very useful. But this one irritated Keeri. She answered with a loud threatening sniff and struck a Shivaji Ganesan pose. Her fur stood up in its super- irritated pose, her little red eyes gleamed, and Gundu knew he was in for it.

Learning to Live with People

"Do you love me, or don't you?" she asked in the flat, even decibels that mongooses use when seriously angry.

Gundu was shocked. His words were cold as ice.

"Who.... who caught two rats for you yesterday, because your nose wasn't working properly? And who shared a centipede with you this morning?"

"Excuse me," answered Keeri, "sharing means giving half. What I had was about one-seventh."

Oh boy. Keeri became very mathematical about such things when she was in a bad mood. He better shut up and let her do the talking. And she did. She went on and on and on. "So you love me, do you? But you don't mind that those

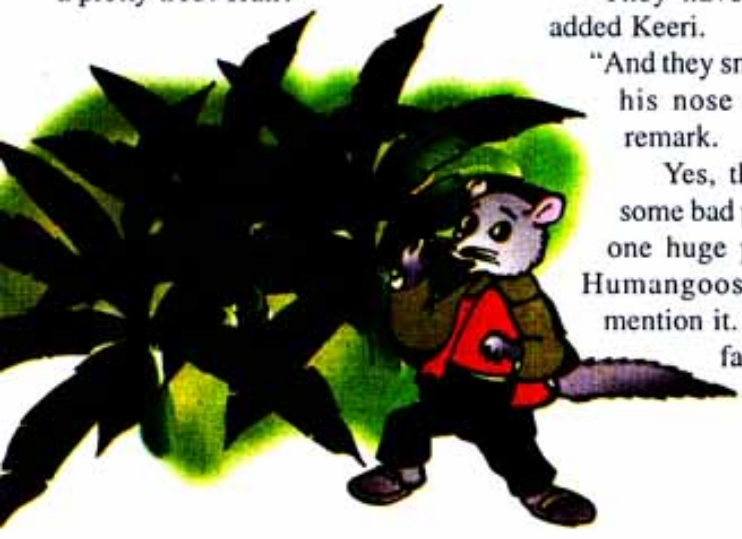
two-legged twits tried to kill me? You don't care. I know you don't care. If you did, you'd take me back to the jungle. But you never will, because you don't..."

"Okay then, I will. Let's go."

This was a gamble. A trick. Gundu was taking a bit of a risk. But he felt it in his bones that Keeri didn't really want to go back. The jungle had had its problems too... the predators, for instance. The long and often fruitless hunts for food in the dry season. The big old trees groaning and moaning in the wind.

Keeri had turned into a statue. An anxious statue. "Come on then, let's start packing, shall we?" continued Gundu.

"Wh..what? Whatja say?" She got this American accent sometimes. When she was feeling sheepish, especially. "Hey look.. ever seen such a pretty tree? Huh?"



When things got rough, Keeri quickly changed the subject. Gundu smiled a whiskery smile and wriggled his eyebrows, which meant "Oh, you're a silly creature but I love you anyway."

Keeri's eyebrows wriggled in answer. That meant "Thanks. Let's forget it."

So they decided to stay on in the rice paddy, but changed their habits so they could avoid the people-creatures as much as possible. Daytime, that lovely time of warmth and beauty, had become dangerous. They moved around at night, when the herds of people slept. Sometimes, for entertainment, they'd quietly creep up to their habitats, enormous stone and mud caves... far bigger than necessary... and climb the water pipes to peep in and study them.

"They're a bit like monkeys, " observed Gundu, "only not as pretty or clever."

"They have too many things," added Keeri.

"And they smell." Gundu wiggled his nose to accompany this remark.

Yes, the people-herds had some bad points. But there was one huge plus- point, and the Humangooses never forgot to mention it. After all, they were fairminded mongooses.

(To be continued)

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

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KRISHNA NATARAJAN

Over to GERMANY-2

Here we analyse the other four groups in the FIFA World Cup, (a continuation of part I in the April 2006 issue) Read up, draw your own conclusions and await the surprise contest in the June 2006 issue!

GROUP E: ITALY, USA, GHANA, CZECH REPUBLIC

The Italians are favorites to win the Group, although the Czechs can never be underestimated. They have centerbacks Nesta and Cannavaro, goalkeeper Buffon, midfielders Pirlo and Gatusso, strikers Del Piero, Luca Toni and playmaker Totti.

The Czechs have veteran playmaker Nedved, striker Baros and goalkeeper Cech who is second best only to Buffon. The USA is unlikely to pull off a major upset. Ghana are first timers to the world cup.

PREDICTION:

1: Italy 2: Czech Republic

PLAYERS TO WATCH:

1: Alberto Gilardino (Centre Forward, Italy)

2: Thomas Rosicky (Attacking Midfielder, Czech Republic)

GROUP F: BRAZIL, CROATIA, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN,

The Brazilians are firm favorites to retain the cup. Such is the class of this team that even striker Ronaldo is not assured of a start, with Adriano and Robinho hot on his heels. They

will play the famous 'triangle' formation, with Kaka and Ronaldinho playing behind the striker. Brazil is lethal from set-pieces and has great freekick takers- Juninho and Roberto Carlos.

The fight for second place will be close among the other teams.

PREDICTION:

1: Brazil 2: Croatia

PLAYERS TO WATCH:

1: Robinho (Right Forward, Brazil)

2: Harry Kewell (Left Forward, Australia)

GROUP G: FRANCE, SWITZERLAND, SOUTH KOREA, TOGO,

France is a shadow of the team they were. Their qualifying campaign saw Zidane, Makelele and Thuram coming out of retirement. The French will be relying heavily on strikers Trezeguet and Henry. There is room for upsets in this group, with both Switzerland and South Korea perfectly capable of toppling the French.

PREDICTION:

1: France 2: South Korea

PLAYERS TO WATCH:

1: William Gallas (Centre Back, France)

2: Park Ji Sung (Right winger, South Korea)

GROUP H: SPAIN, UKRAINE, TUNISIA, SAUDI ARABIA,

Span have been underperformers in World Cup Finals. It will be up to their talismanic striker Raul, goalkeeper Casillas, defender Puyol and midfielders Baraja and Vicente life the side.

Ukraine will pose a stiff challenge through striker Shevchenko, a contender for the 'Golden Boot' award.

PREDICTION:

1: Spain 2: Ukraine

PLAYERS TO WATCH

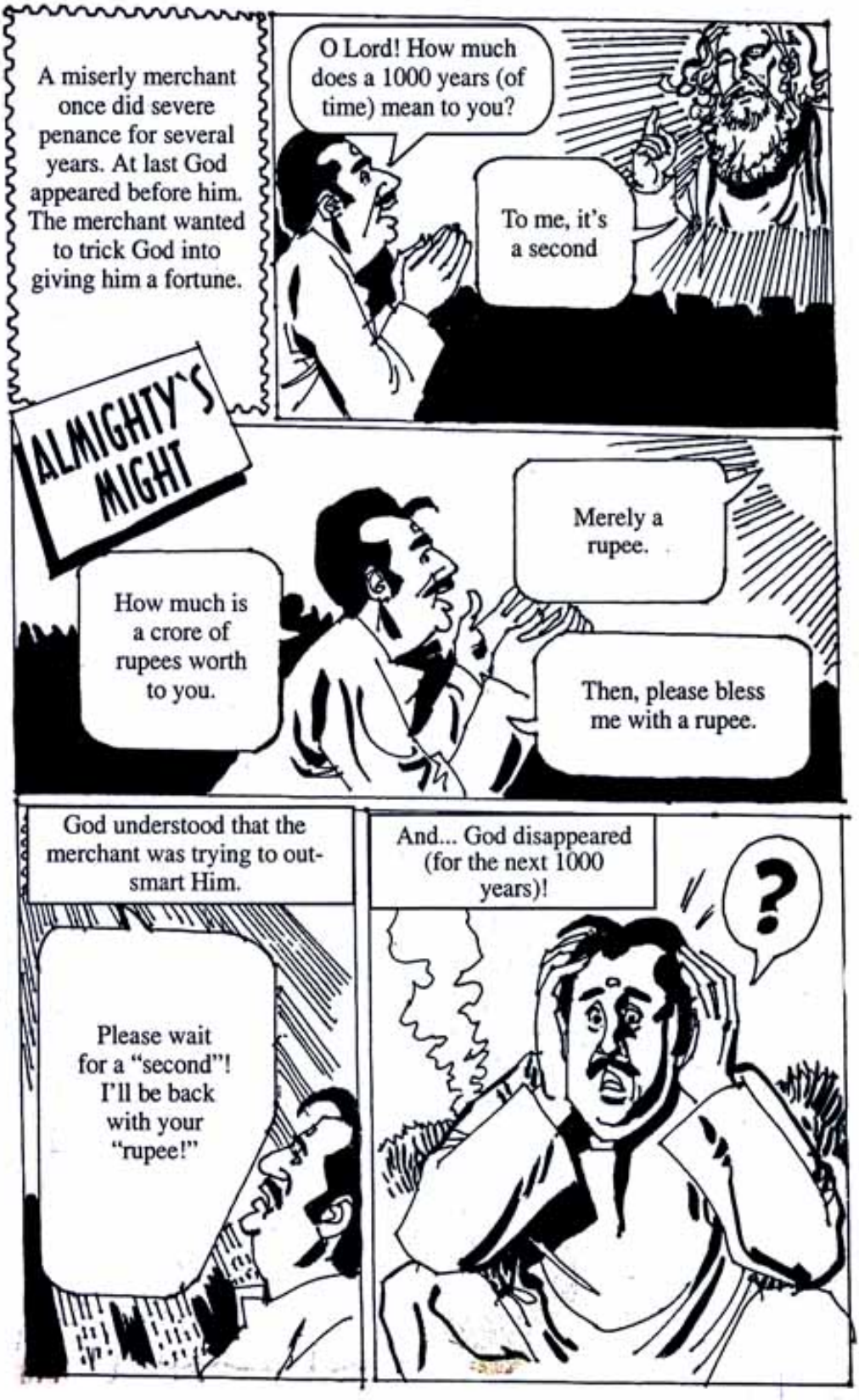
1: Fernando Torres (Center Forward, Spain) 2: Franscesc Fabrigas (Attacking Midfielder, Spain)

Laugh A While Contest - 11

"To market, to market to buy..." We leave it to your imagination. Write an original funny story in not more than 350 words about going to the market. Be it in a town or village, the choice is yours. But remember to mention **'Laugh a While Contest - 11'** on the envelope and send it to reach us latest by 20.5.2006.

- Strictly for school going children.
- Give your name, school and residential address.
- A declaration that the story is your original creation.
- The prize winning entry will appear in the July 2006 issue of Gokulam.
- Editor's decision is final.

Send in your entries to:
Gokulam,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.


ALMIGHTY'S MIGHT
A miserly merchant once did severe penance for several years. At last God appeared before him. The merchant wanted to trick God into giving him a fortune.
O Lord! How much does a 1000 years (of time) mean to you?
To me, it's a second
How much is a crore of rupees worth to you.
Merely a rupee.
Then, please bless me with a rupee.
God understood that the merchant was trying to out-smart Him.
Please wait for a "second"! I'll be back with your "rupee!"
And... God disappeared (for the next 1000 years)!
?

P.R.

BEYOND PLUTO!

"Which is the outermost planet orbiting the sun in the Solar System?" Pat comes the reply "Pluto!" Wrong answer! No kidding! Astronomers claim to have recently discovered a 10th planet, larger than the tiny, lonely Pluto, beyond Pluto's orbit. This enigmatic object has been named 2003 UB 313.

Is 2003 UB 313 really a planet? Well, soon after an American team announced their finding on July 30, 2005, the Pluto defenders pooh - poohed it saying UB 313 was merely a "vulgar rock" and not a planet. In scientific terms this means UB 313 is a Kuiper Belt Object (KBO)- an estimated 1 lakh pieces of icy, primeval debris slowly orbiting the sun, on the periphery of the solar system, far beyond the orbit of Neptune.

However, UB 313 supporters retorted that between Pluto and UB 313, Pluto could more aptly be termed a KBO and not the latter, because Pluto is the one that has an unplanetary orbital plane and for 20 years (of its 248 year orbit) it is inside Neptune.

Controversies apart, how big is UB 313? Using a 30 metre telescope astronomers, led by Frank Bertoldi of Germany, say that its diameter is about 3000km (the largest planet in the solar system since the discovery of Neptune)! UB 313 is about 1% larger than Pluto say American scientists of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This is based on images taken last December by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope.

UB 313 is yet to be confirmed as a planet. But if it is confirmed, wonder what name will be given to it! It'll be named after a figure from Greek or Roman mythology, that's for sure!

SPAGHETTI WORMS

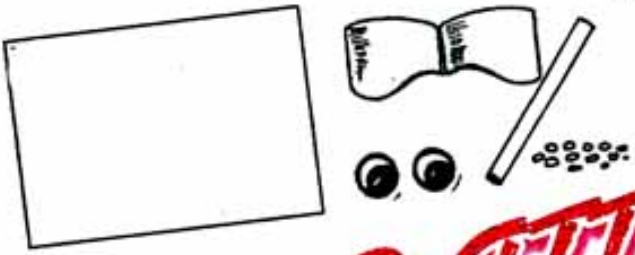
You will need: Cooked Spaghetti, Transparent container, 1 cup vinegar, 1 cup water, 2 tsp of baking soda, Red and blue food colouring

Method: Cut the spaghetti into 1 - 2 inch pieces. Mix the water and vinegar in the container. Add few drops of red and blue colouring. Slowly add baking soda. Put the spaghetti in the bowl.

What will you see?

The spaghetti will wriggle around like purple worms sometimes rising to the top and sometimes falling to the bottom!

- Harsh Ashwinbhai Shah, The Swaminarayan School, Nagpur

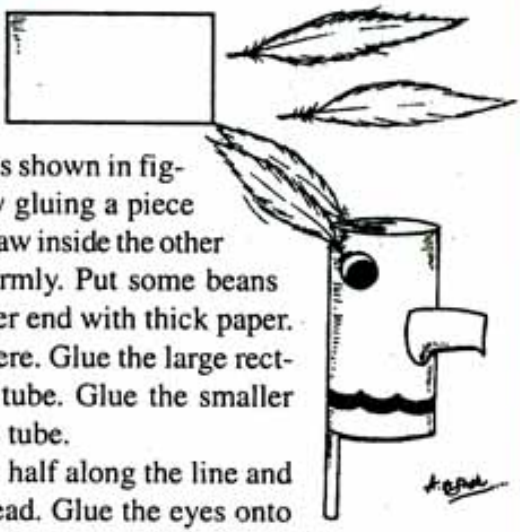


RATTLES!

BIRD RATTLE

Materials: - Cardboard, straw, thick paper, dry beans.

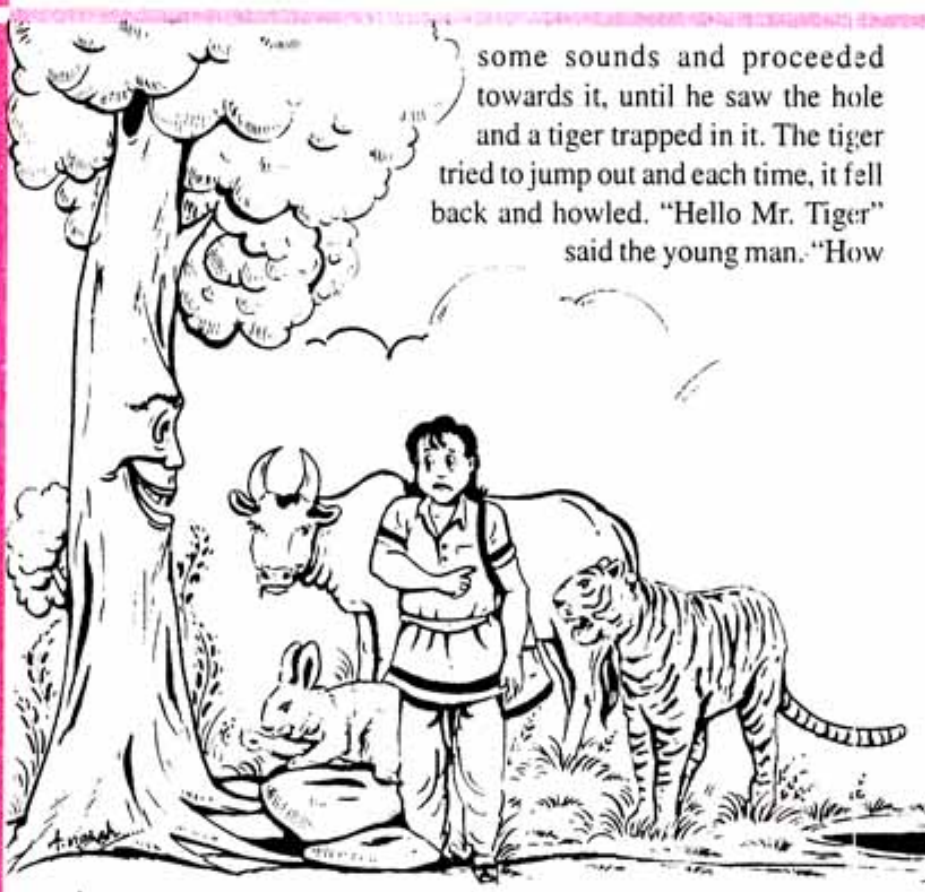
Method: - Roll a piece of cardboard and glue its edges to make a hollow tube 8.5 cm long as shown in figure. Close one end of the tube by gluing a piece of thick paper. Insert a drinking straw inside the other end of the tube and tape it on firmly. Put some beans inside the tube and cover the other end with thick paper. Make the picture pieces shown here. Glue the large rectangle piece on first, around the tube. Glue the smaller rectangle along the bottom of the tube.



Fold the picture of the beak in half along the line and glue to the centre of the bird's head. Glue the eyes onto the tube and the feathers onto the top of the head.

Your Bird Rattle is ready.

- Sreena Gopinathan, Std VI, Ambarnath (E), Thane



A long time ago, the people of a small village came together. "We have to do something! With all these tigers around, we are too scared to go out of the village" said one man.

"Last week a tiger ate my leg" said another, pointing to his leg, that was not there.

The villagers decided to dig deep holes to trap the tigers. They dug the holes near all the tracks leading to the village.

A few days later, a young man was passing by. He heard some sounds and proceeded towards it, until he saw the hole and a tiger trapped in it. The tiger tried to jump out and each time, it fell back and howled. "Hello Mr. Tiger" said the young man. "How did you get down there?"

"I don't know" cried the tiger. "I was just walking along in the forest as tigers do, looking for something to eat, when suddenly I fell into this pit." The tiger pleaded with the young man to help him. "Please. Please help me get out of here. If you do, I'll be very grateful.

The young man took pity. He found a branch and pushed it to the side of the deep hole. The tiger sprang up the branch and out of the hole.

The young man suddenly felt nervous standing next to the tiger and decided to leave. "Goodbye Mr. Tiger" he said.

ungrateful TIGER!

"Not so fast" said the tiger. "I am going to eat you."

"But... but you said you'd be grateful if I helped you" stammered the young man.

"I am grateful" said the tiger. "But humans dug that hole to trap me and since you too are a human I am going to eat you."

"That's not fair" cried the young man.

I'm a tiger and that's what tigers do. Eat people." growled the tiger.

"I helped you and now you're going to eat me just because I'm human" said the young man. "I think we should ask someone else to judge if that's fair or not."

The tiger agreed. They went to look for someone to act as a judge. They found an ox and told him the story. "I think it's fair that the tiger should eat you" said the ox. "Men treat oxen very badly. We're made to work all day and when you want to, you kill us and eat us."

The tiger moved closer to the young man, who quickly yelled. "Let's make it best of three." The tiger agreed and they went to ask the biggest tree in the forest.

"I think it's fair for the tiger to eat you. You humans chop us down whenever you want to and set fire to the forest and burn us."

Just then they saw a hare hopping along.

"Please Mr. Hare, help judge if Mr. Tiger should eat me" begged the man.

The hare listened to their story and said, "I must see exactly what happened."

They went to the hole where the young man had rescued the tiger.

"Now show me exactly where you were" said the hare. The tiger jumped into the hole.

"Was this branch in the hole?" asked the hare.

"No. It wasn't" answered the tiger. The young man pulled the branch out.

"It's not fair that you eat the young man, just because humans dug the hole" said the hare. "You should have been grateful for his help."

The hare hopped away and the young man thanked the hare and hurried off to the village leaving the ungrateful tiger howling.

- A Korean Tale retold by Ms. R.Saradha

SOUND ADVICE!

My grandmother narrated this incident to me. When grandma was seven years old. One of her teachers, whom they called 'Christian Master', was going to retire. He was loved by all the students. Before he left, he wanted to meet all the students. He visited her class and before saying goodbye he asked if anybody would sing a song for him. All the students were shy. My grandmother got up and said she knew only one song or else she would have sung. He asked her to sing that song. She sang it with confidence. He liked that song very much and said that she was the best student in the class. Everyone applauded.

Grandma says that she learnt that we should never hesitate in doing good things. She has been pracitising this all her life and remembers her teacher to this date.

- V.Sanjana, Std - V,
Sherwood Public School,
Hyderabad

My favourite teacher is my English cum Social Studies teacher, Mrs. Chitra Srinath. I like her very much because when we make mistakes she does not scold or shout at us. Instead she calls us later on and patiently gives individual advice. She treats all her students as she would her own children and encourages everyone. She was my class teacher in seventh and eighth standards. Now she is my dance teacher. Thanks to her I have won several competitions.

After the sudden demise of my father, three months back, I rely on

my mother and her to guide me. She has become a second mother to me. Thank you, Chitra ma'am!

- J.Aishwarya, Std -X,
Jaigopal Garodia National
Hr.Sec.School, Chennai

Our school conducts a unique programme named quality circles for education. It helps to develop quality education in our school.

We pick out a problem that bothers our class and then try to solve it. We then present our case to a judges panel. When I was in Std VI, my friends and I were selected to present our case before the judges. We were all really thrilled.

Later we came to know that we were to be facilitated by the most short - tempered teacher on the campus - Rajeshwari ma'am. She used to scold us a lot even for small mistakes during our practice sessions.

We hated her and spoke ill of her behind her back. But when the results were announced, there was a pleasant surprise in store for us.

We had bagged the first place. We then realised that our teacher had scolded us only to correct us and not to hurt us. We felt ashamed of ourselves. We went to her and confessed our mistakes. She was very kind and understanding. She advised us not to judge people at face value.

Though she is not in our school any more, the memories of being with her will stay in our minds for ever.

- M. Sowmya, Std - VIII,
T.V.S. Mat.Hr.Sec.School,
Madurai

THE DARK ROOM

I shut my book,
And gave it a longing look.
As I got ready to go to my room,
I imagined a witch sweeping in on her broom!
Werewolves can be scary,
Especially during full moon.
If there is one in my room,
I am going to run away soon!
Or it could even be giant scissors,
Cutting everything in sight.
I hope I don't have to fight it,
With all my might.
Something soft brushed my face,
I screamed and quickened my pace.
To make haste and turn on the light,
But when the room was bright,
It was only a bit of lace,
Hanging from an unaccustomed place!

-Krittika Sridharan,
Std.VI, Sanskriti School, New Delhi

A NEW

MR & MRS NOBODY

There lived this Mr. and Mrs. Nobody,
Who were willing to help out anybody.

Be it Mr. Smith or Mrs. Trend,
Each and everyone was their friend.

All they had in plenty was humility,
They helped one and all, as per their capability.

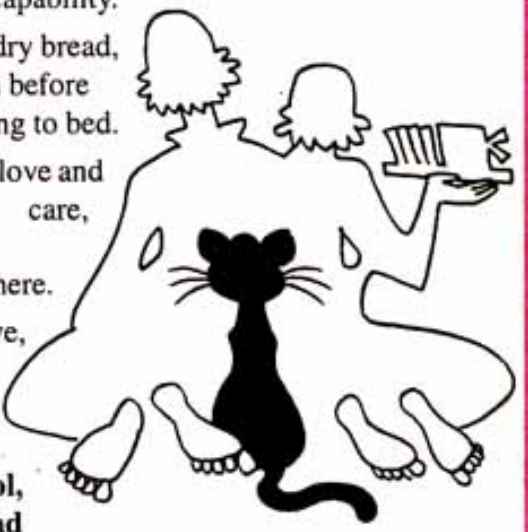
Their everyday food was gruel'n dry bread,
They prayed for all, in the morn'n before going to bed.

Their good hearts were filled with love and care,

Thus spreading love here, there, everywhere.

I don't know the cause for this love,
Only He knows. who lives high above!

- GEET GEORGE, Std.IX,
St.Xavier's High School,
Ahmedabad



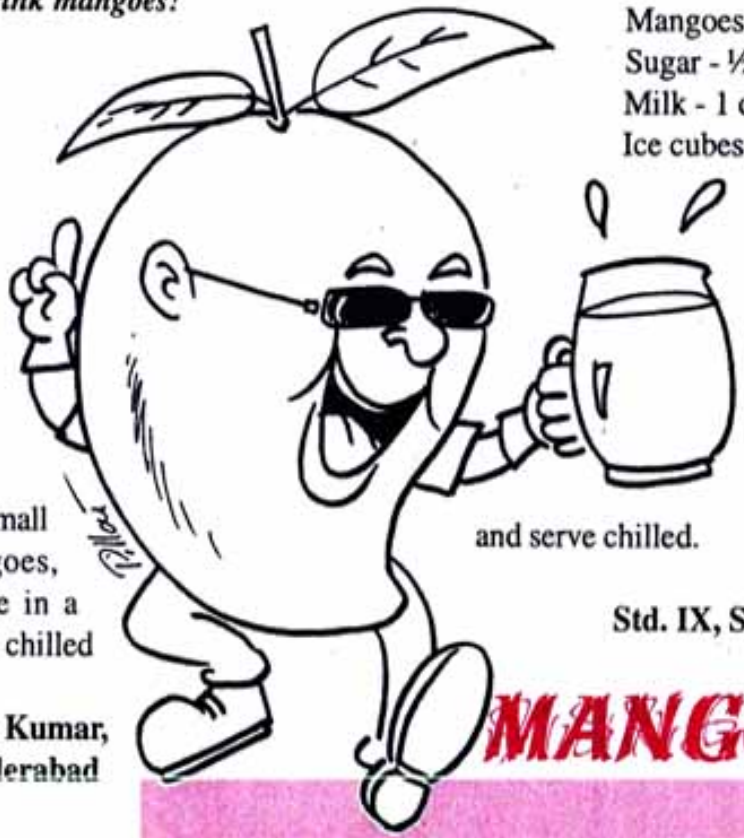
KIND OF FLU!

Smiling is infectious, you can catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me, I started smiling too!
When I passed the corner, someone saw my grin,
When he smiled, I realized I passed it onto him!

I thought about that smile, and realized its worth,
A single smile like mine, could travel round the earth!
So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected,
Lets start an epidemic, quick, and get the world infected!

- E.M.Gopika, aged 12,
Bangalore

Summer brings with it luscious mangoes. Enjoy the delicious King of Fruits. Eat mangoes.... and drink mangoes!



MANGO DELITE!

MANGO LASSI

Ingredients:

Mango - 1 kg
Curd - 1 kg
Mango Essence - 5 ml
Sugar - 3 tbsp.

Method:

Cut the mangoes into small pieces. Whip the mangoes, curd, sugar and essence in a mixie. Refrigerate. Serve chilled in tall glasses!

- B.Sai Kumar,
Std - IX, Hyderabad

MANGO CRUSH

Ingredients:

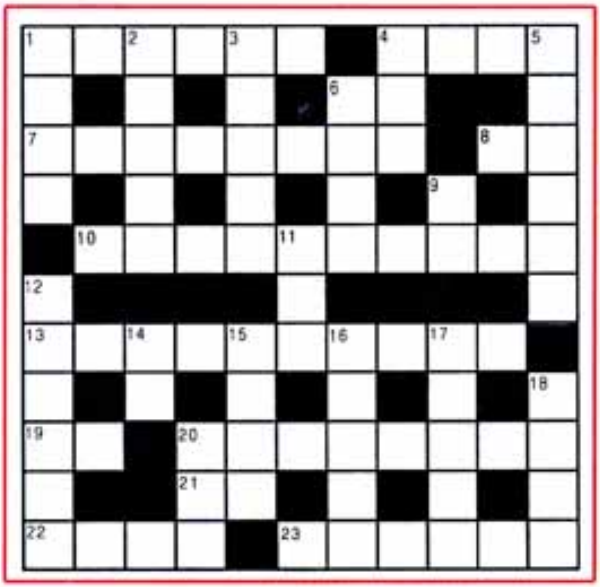
Mangoes - 5 (juicy)
Sugar - ½ cup
Milk - 1 cup
Ice cubes - 1 cup

Method:

Cut mangoes into pieces. In a mixie, grind it to a fine paste. Add sugar and milk. Whip the mixture. Then add ice cubes and whip for a minute. Pour it into a glass. Garnish with cherry pieces and serve chilled.

- Benekia B.Moses
Std. IX, Sai English High School, Kalyan.

KRISH CROSS 11



Clues Across

1. Season following spring-can be pretty hot (6)
4. Not warm, try to keep your ---- during 1 Ac. (4)
6. A small post office? (1,1)
7. Sounds as though I shriek for this delicious frozen food-could be kulfi / sundae (3,5)
8. Rupees, in short (2)
10. Star-gazer in observatory, using telescope (10)
13. Side of a triangle, opposite the right angle. Remember Pythogoras theorem? (10)
19. Us, not fully wet! (2)
20. Horizontal solar protection over window (8)
21. Either...
22. Water falling from the sky. Rani in disguise could get wet! (4)
23. Ordered assemblage of things or parts. Can be found in classy stem (6)

Clues Down

1. Freestyle or backstroke, if you don't do this, you sink (4)
2. Joins or teems differently (5)
3. A mistake in terror, losing head (5)
4. Company in short, following dot in e-mail address (3)
5. Definitely not winners! (6)
6. Suffering or Spain decapitated (4)
9. Chief Minister, reduced to 10 Millimetres (1,1)
11. A metal-bearing mineral or rock (3)
12. Light rainfall in your bathroom, at the turn of a tap (6)
14. 16th Greek Alphabet, valued at 22/7. (2)
15. A trip or visit can turn into a rout (4)
16. Foul and ugly is a North American pigpen (5)
17. Bright, sharp and chic, the trams reversing (5)
18. Group of sportspersons, or meat gone bad? (4)
20. Male child sounding solar (3)

Note: 1. *Some clues are straight definitions, others are cryptic with hidden meaning!*

2. *Watch out for anagrams - jumbling of words, to solve clues.*

- Devised by Krishnaswamy

ENTRY FORM

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies. **Last Date : 10.5.2006**

Congratulations!

The five lucky winners are:

1. Avril D'Souza, Std IV, St. Michael's Convent, Karwar
2. Vimudha, Std IX, R.S.V. Public School, New Delhi
3. P. Lavanya, Std X, KV. Air Force Station, Thane (W)
4. R. Malavika, Std X, B.V.B.M.H.S.S, Coimbatore
5. A.Sruthi Kalyani, Std VIII, Sri Jayendra Silver Jubilee School, Tirunelveli

1 A	L	2 L	F	3 O	O	4 L	S	5 D	A	6 Y
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E		D		S		9 Y	10 E	T		
11 B	O	O	12 T		13 B		M		14 P	15 M
R		16 N	U	M	E	R	I	17 C		A
18 A	M		B		E		19 T	A	L	C
		20 S	E	21 E		22 L		R		3
23 P	A	L		24 T	R	O	U	B	L	E
A		A		N		S		O		T
25 Y	U	V	R	A	J	S	I	N	G	H

HUMOUR

CONCERNED HUSBAND!

A husband complained to the doctor that his wife was going deaf. The doctor asked him to make sure before fetching her for a checkup..

He went home. His wife was cooking dinner in the kitchen. Standing 20 feet behind her, he asked her, "What are we having for dinner?" No answer. He moved 5 feet closer to her and repeated the question. No answer. He moved even closer and asked again.

Convinced of her deafness, he finally stood next to her and asked the same question.

The wife shouted: ***"This is almost the fourth time I am telling you, I am cooking rice and vegetables for dinner..."***

Kirti Samantray, Std XI, K.V.No.1, Bhubaneshwar

KIDS' PROVERBS

1. It's always darkest before... daylight
2. Never estimate the power of... termites
3. Don't bite the hands that... look dirty
4. If you lie down with the dogs... You will stink in the morning.
5. Pen is mightier than...Pigs

Source: indianchild.com

- P.Srilakshmi, Std - VII, SBOA School and Junior College, Chennai

THE MUMBAI MAIL Adventure

Tarun was stunned. He did not expect such a surprise ending to the real life drama being enacted in front of him, in which he too was a participant!

It all started like this: His father was taking him to Mumbai on a holiday and they had boarded the Mumbai Mail. An elderly, kind person was seated on the berth opposite and by his side another hefty fierce looking fellow, with a handle - bar moustache. Tarun disliked him the minute he saw him and looked away. The elderly man smiled as if he understood and tore open a packet of biscuits. He offered one to Tarun.

"No, thank you" said Tarun. The elderly person appeared to be disappointed and sad. Soon his expression changed and he grinned.

"You are right young man" he said to Tarun. "Never accept any food stuff offered by strangers expecially when you are travelling by train."

The train had started moving from Central station, Chennai.

"You must have read in the papers about biscuit bandits" said the fierce looking man, and laughed. The laughter had a villainous ring to it. "By the way, I am Muneeswaran" he said and extended a hand to Tarun's father and to Tarun in that order. 'What a queer name' thought Tarun, while making a pretence of shaking hands.

"Rest assured I'm no biscuit bandit" said the mild mannered old man and giggled as though enjoying the joke. He pulled out a wallet from his pant pocket and extracted from it his photo identity card. "See!"

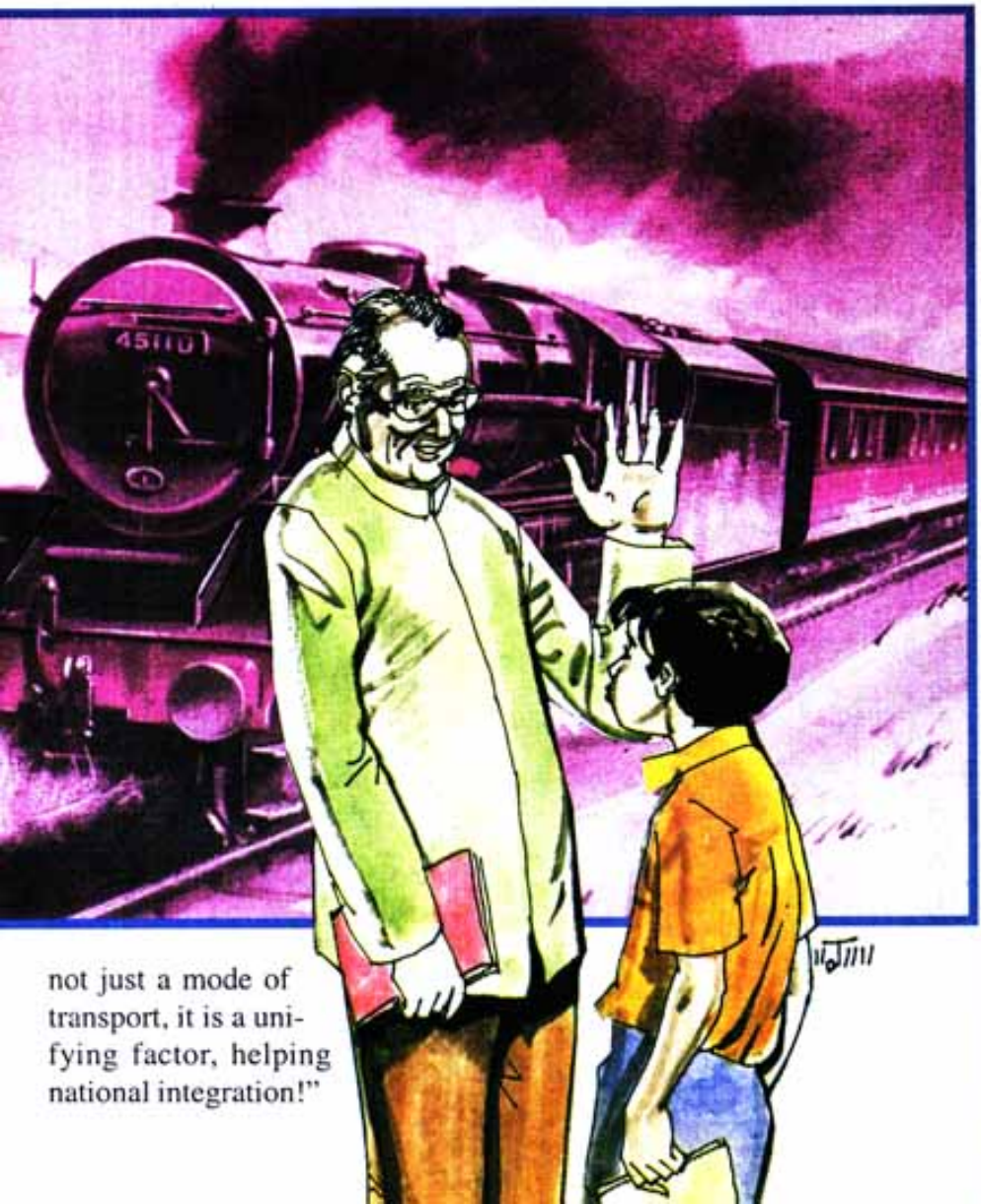
Tarun and his father saw that he was Mohanchand, a senior railway official. "I retired a couple of years ago" smiled Mohanchand. "I can

travel free by train anywhere, anytime!"

"How wonderful" exclaimed Tarun. "Now that you are retired, you can enjoy a Bharat darshan!"

"That's exactly what I'm doing" said Mohanchand. "The railway is not just a mode of transport, it is a unifying factor, helping national integration!"

"Naturally you have to talk appreciatively about the organization for which you have worked long years and from which you are still receiving a pension" said



Muneeswaran, rather in the manner of an insult. "The Indian Railways has its own shortcomings!"

"Oh! Don't mind him" said Tarun. I love the Railways. I have read that the first railway train of our country rolled between Bombay and Thane."

"Yes. It carried 400 people and had 14 carriages. That was way back in 1853. But today there are more than 8500 trains, which carry more than 130 lakh passengers."

Tarun was more than surprised.

Mr.Mohanchand continued: "Before 1950 we had only wooden coaches. It was expensive to maintain. They were unsafe for passengers too. In 1949, the Integral Coach Factory was set up to manufacture metal-bodied coaches. Since then, more than 170 designs of coaches have been developed. The speed potential has also gone up to 140 kms per hour."

"Were the metal bodied coaches the reason for this increase in speed?"

"There was another important factor. At the time of independence, the Indian Railways had only steam locomotives. Now, high horse power diesel locos are manufactured. Electric locomotives also have come to stay. This has made the railways cleaner and eco-friendly. The energy consumption has also come down. The Indian Railway also provides increased amenities to passengers."

"Like what?"

"Air conditioned coaches have been introduced and even for second class sleepers, cushioned berths are provided. Earlier they were just wooden planks.

"And do you know that the Computerized Reservation System, introduced a few years ago, at present covers 97 percent of the reserved bearths and seats?"

"I have travelled from Mettupalayam to Ooty in a mini train on mountainous terrain" said Tarun, "and I enjoyed every second of the

A policeman catches a thief with the help of his dog. After catching the thief the dog ran away.

Policeman: Oh no! My dog has run out.

Thief: Shall I go and catch it?

Policeman: You think I am a fool? You stay I will go and catch it!"

-Aishwarya Umashankar, Pune

journey."

"Ofcourse! Such trains are available in Simla too" said Mohanchand. "Besides, think of the goods trains which carry market supplies including petroleum products all over the country, in an enormous network of rails, trains, signals and stations!"

"Without them, our entire economy will be in doldrums."

"You are a very knowledgeable young man" said Mohanchand, bending over to pat his knee.

"Thank you, sir! I learnt a lot about Indian Railways from you."

"The pleasure is mine young man," said Mohanchand and yawned. "Shall we go to bed?"

"Ofcourse" said Tarun's father and without any further conversation all of them stretched out on their respective berths.

Well past midnight, Tarun was woken up by Muneeswaran's hoarse voice! "Wake up! Wake up!" He was shaking Tarun's father out of his sleep, rather rudely. "Wake up, I say! I need a witness! Follow me!"

Tarun climbed down from his middle berth and followed his father, who in turn was following Muneeswaran. In the foyer just outside the compartments, Mohandchand was standing by the door, ready to alight from the train. The train was slowing down in a station.

"Why! He's carrying our suitcases", said Tarun's father in total astonishment.

Muneeswaran took out a pair of hand cuffs from his pocket and said, "I arrest you, biscuit bandit!" He gave the suitcases back to Tarun and his father, took their address and a written signed statement.

"I'm from the Railway Police", he said, producing his identity card. "Dressed in plain clothes, I have been following this chap to catch him red handed!"

He got down from the train with Mohanchand firmly in his grip. "See you later! Enjoy your trip! Remember the Railway Police!" The train started moving and picked up speed.

'What an extraordinary strange twist to a real life drama!' thought Tarun as he clambered back into his middle berth.

Shopkeeper: Do you want a pocket calculator?

Man: No thanks. I know how many pockets I have!

- K.Upasana, Jamshedpur

"The hills are alive with the sound of music." I'm not talking about the Austrian hills but our Indian hills. Munnar in Kerala is an ideal hillstation. My parents whisked me off to Munnar as a special treat on the day I completed my Board Exams.

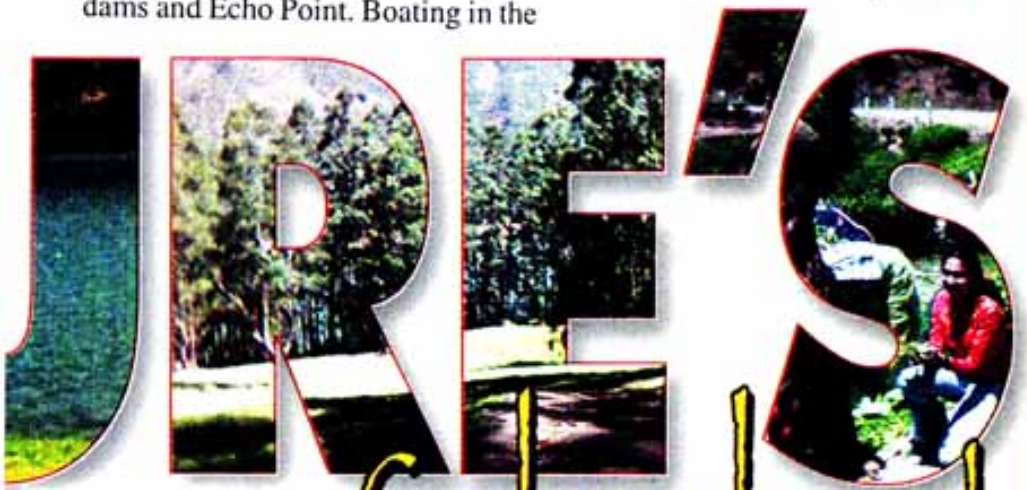
Kochi is the closest airport and from there it is a long journey by road. We boarded a bus to a place called Adimali and then took a bus from there to the magical land.

The road to Munnar is through many tea gardens and makes the journey doubly enjoyable. After around four hours (from Kochi) we reached our destination. Munnar amazed me with its sprawling tea gardens, greenery, lakes and numerous rivulets. It was then that I was told that the name Munnar came from the words "moonu aru" meaning three rivers (Mudrapuzha, Nallathanni and Kundala)

The next day after a cup of hot masala tea we took off for sight-seeing. A helpful auto driver was taking us around. He pointed to a tree and told us that it was full of bee hives in the earlier part of the year. He also told us that the rare flower Kurunji that blooms only once in twelve years had already started blooming this year. When we were busy admiring the beauty, a small boy came up to ask us if wanted to buy some fresh

carrots. How could I resist the temptation.

The highlight of the trip however was the Mattupetty and Kundala dams and Echo Point. Boating in the lakes was interesting. At the Kundala lake our 'guide' launched into an explanation as to why it was a perennial lake. On the Tamil Nadu - Kerala border it receives rainfall during monsoons in both states. Even if there are no rains, there is an Amman temple that has natural springs whose waters flow into the river! At Echo Point I tried screaming and was delighted to hear my echo.



JRE'S Splendour!

At the entrance strawberry presserves were being sold. We were given samples for taste and with a sweet tongue we left the place. We were shown the spot where many movies were shot. Our sightseeing was complete with an educational trip to the tea museum.

Finally with a heavy heart (and a heavy bag laden with spices, tea and wooden toys) we left this wonderful paradise. To match the beauty of the place the people are also very friendly and helpful, so make sure you visit it when you go to 'God's own country.

-Avantika R Kannan, Std X, Vidya Mandir SSS, Chennai

BATTLING THE HEAT!

●**Nirmal Kumar,**
Chennai - 1

? Why does sunstroke occur? How can we prevent it? Suggest First Aid.

! Overexposure of our body to heat during summer causes sunstroke. It occurs when the body temperature increases rapidly and the heat regulating mechanism of the body fails. The sweating mechanism fails and the body temperature cannot be brought down to normal. The common symptoms are vomiting, blurred vision, convulsion, dry skin, rapid heartbeat and loss of consciousness.

Prevention of sunstroke:

1. Drink more water, tender coconut water, lemon juice, sugarcane juice, rice water, any fruit juice and buttermilk.

2. Intake of more liquids and less solids is better.

3. Vegetarian diet, salads, fruits like watermelon, cucumber, mangoes, grapes, oranges and leafy vegetables are recommended.

4. Apply sunscreen lotion on the skin and wear sunglasses whenever you go out in the sun.

5. Wear light and loose fitting cotton dresses.

6. Try not to expose yourself to the sun between 12 noon to 4 p.m. Don't forget to carry an umbrella.

First aid for sunstroke:

1.Move the victim to a properly ventilated, shady, cool or air-conditioned place.

2. Make the victim lie down with the feet raised.

3. Remove or loosen the dress.

4. Don't allow over-crowding of the place, as the victim needs enough ventilation.

5. Administer water mixed with salt, sugar or glucose, if the victim is conscious.

6. Cool down the victim by placing cold water - soaked sheets on his body.

7. Fan the victim to reduce the heat.

8. Arrange for hospitalisation.

• Varshavarthini, Vizag

? I have read that taking vitamin tablets will promote 'super health.' Is it true, doctor?

! Vitamins are helpful to regulate body metabolism and they do not provide energy. They only help the food we eat to release energy and the body to absorb it. Everyone does not need vitamin tablets. Only people whose diet lacks vitamins and minerals need vitamin supplements. Elderly persons, pregnant women, persons with deficiency diseases of liver, digestive system, pancreas, diabetes etc., also need vitamin supplements. It is always better to get the nutrients naturally from food we eat.

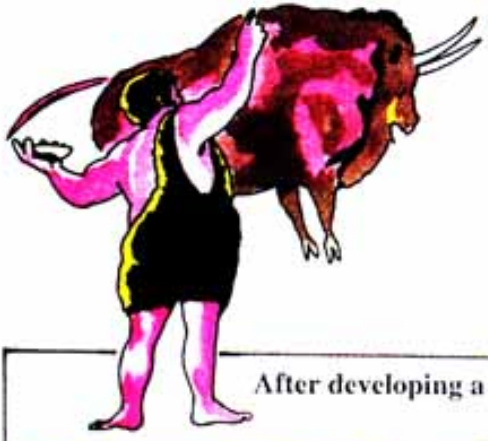
• Ambika Ghosh, Kolkata

? How can we prevent jaundice and chickenpox during summer?

! Jaundice is actually a symptom (not a disease). The liver is affected, usually, due to Hepatitis A virus. This virus is carried by contaminated water, food or milk. Chicken pox is a viral disease caused by varicella virus. It is transmitted by direct body contact. Both are common in summer. We can prevent them by adopting simple measures of personal hygiene. We should wash our hands before eating. We should drink potable water or boiled water. We should not eat contaminated food. We should cover food items so that flies cannot infect them. One can also get vaccinated against the viruses.

STORY OF PAPER

-Aazhi

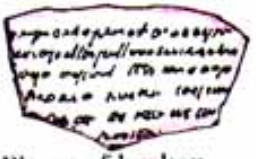


In ancient, times, before the discovery of paper, cavemen pictorically depicted their thoughts on the walls of caves. They did not have a script in those days.

After developing a script, man used several objects to write on.

Animal Skins

Limestone 'boards'



Pieces of broken pottery

Palm leaves

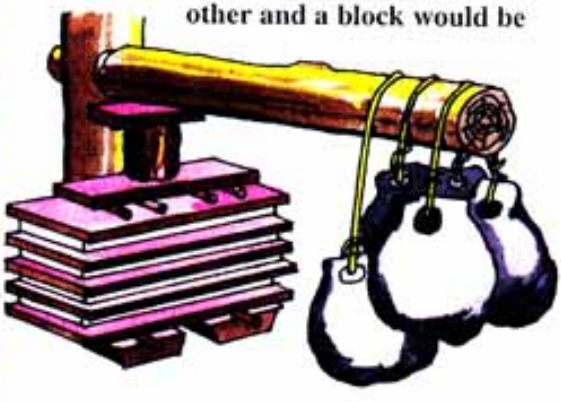
Egyptians used the barks of the papyrus tree as 'rolled paper' scrolls. Thus paper got its name from the word papyrus.

There is a species of insects known as 'paper wasp'. It builds its hive with paper! How? First it chews soft wood and makes it into pulp. It then spreads out the pulp into a sheet. When the 'sheet' dries up, it becomes paper. Although man observed these creatures, he never understood the 'process' of conversion.

Paper was first made about 1850 years ago in China. The discovery of paper by the Chinese was merely accidental. When Chinese girls washed their clothes in water bodies, small bits of thread fell off on the rocks. They dried up in the sun and became sheets. The Chinese observed this and converted their old cotton linen to paper.

Later linen was replaced by strings from mulberry tree barks. Paper was first hand made. Old used linen and mulberry barks were snipped into tiny pieces, well soaked and then mashed into pulp. The pulp was then spread out onto frames made of fine cloth. Once the water from the pulp had been completely drained, the pulp would have turned into sheets. These sheets were then dried.

Sometimes several such sheets were laid one on top of the other and a block would be



placed to press it to remove the water.

The art of paper making remained a secret with the Chinese for centuries. In 704 AD the Arabs conquered Samarkhand. There they found a Chinese 'Paper Factory' and learnt the secret. They were responsible for spreading the art of paper making worldwide.

In 1799, Louis Robert of France, invented a machine to produce paper. This machine could produce paper of small width. But until the printing press was invented the use of paper was not truly appreciated!

Nowadays quality paper is made using wood from spruce and pine trees.

The bark of trees are stripped in paper factories. The wood is chopped into small pieces. Some chemicals are added to remove the fibrous portions and facilitate the making of pulp.

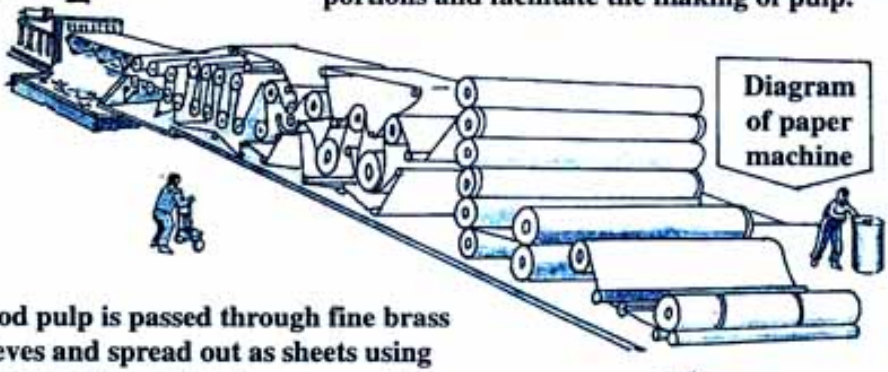
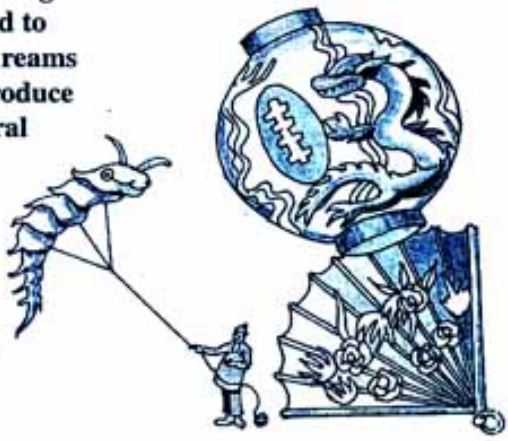


Diagram of paper machine

Wood pulp is passed through fine brass sieves and spread out as sheets using rollers. Then hot rollers are used to process the sheets and make huge reams of paper. Today, a machine can produce paper of 600cm width and several kilometres length!

In China, paper is used in a variety of ways. Nowadays, different kinds of paper are made - fine, thick, smooth, rough, easily shreddable, strong and so on.



"Give me blood; and I will give you freedom."; these were the golden words of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. He was a son of India who tried to free India from the clutches of foreign rule.

Subhash was born on 23rd August, 1897 in Cuttack in the State of Orissa. His father, Shri Raibahadur Nath Bose was not only the head of the city municipality and the district board, but also a prominent lawyer by profession. Subhashji had his early education at the Western school. In the year 1920, he went to England to obtain his I.C.S. (Indian Civil Service) degree. After returning from England he got a government job.

But he did not like the job. So he resigned and joined the Indian freedom struggle. He joined hands with famous freedom fighter Deshbandu Chittaranjan Das. He did not agree with Gandhiji, yet he took active part in the satyagrahas led by Gandhiji. He was President of Congress in 1938 and 1939; but due to differences with Gandhiji, Subhash resigned from the Congress and formed the *Forward Bloc*.

The British Government arrested him in 1940 because they were suspicious of his anti - British feelings and actions. His health was not good and they had to release him, but they kept him under house arrest. Subhashji, under the disguise of a Pathan, escaped to Russia and then Germany through Kabul.

By 1942, the Japanese had thousands of Indian soldiers of World War II. Subhashji reached Japan and united the Indians under a party called the Indian National Army. The soldiers called him *Netaji*. He then marched towards India. Even though his army had less armament he captured many British posts on the way to Imphal on the North-Eastern Frontier of present India. During this time

the Japanese had to surrender to the Allies in the World War II, so they withdrew their forces from the Indo-Burma border. The British overpowered the I.N.A. But Netaji fled. On 23rd August, 1945 Tokyo Radio announced the crash of Netaji's aircraft. But till date, his death is a mystery because his dead body was never recovered.

- Sudarshan Subramanian,
Class IX, Holy Angels School
Sahibabad.

BOAR
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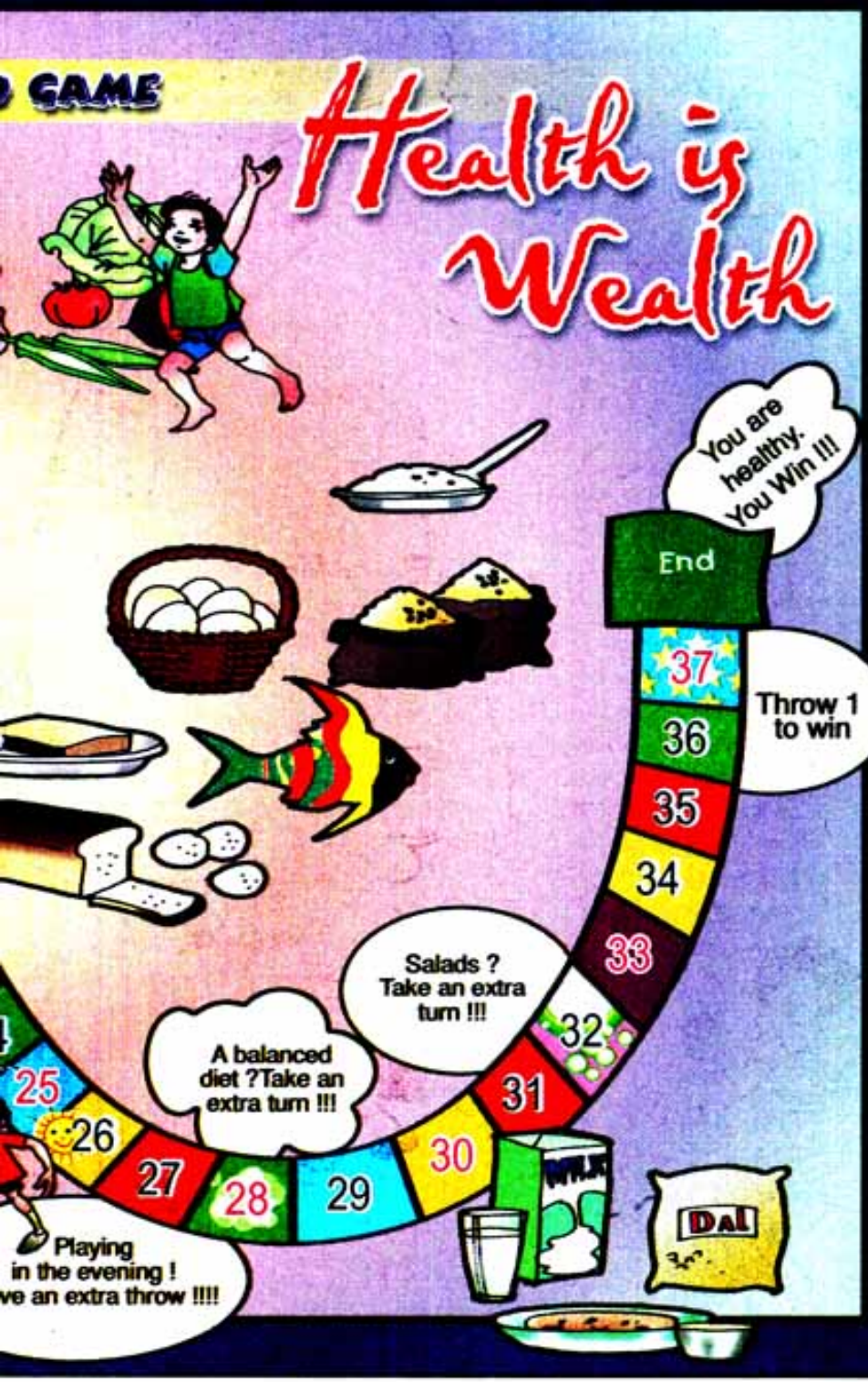
Washing hands! Jump 2 spaces ahead !
You have a cold ! 2 spaces back
Junk food... Stomach ache ! Miss a turn !
You brushed your teeth. Move 3 places ahead !
A Feast! Miss a turn
Conceived by : VIJI
Pictures by : LALITHAA

GAME

Health is Wealth



SEETHA SRIKANTH

FOR VERY YOUNG

Do you find books with small letters and no pictures boring? Lots of children do.

"Kiddibird" books are for very young readers and for those who love books with more pictures and less words.

You must have heard of the stories of the Hare and the Tortoise, The Fox and the Grapes. These and many hundred other stories were supposed to have been told by a Greek called Aesop. Aesop is thought to have lived 2500 years ago. Aesop's stories are called fables. Fables are stories that teach a lesson about being good or bad and often have animals or imaginary creatures that talk.

Kiddibird's "Aesop Fables Series" has 10 books that come on smooth paper. Each story is in big print and is only one page long. And the next page has a big bright picture of a scene from the story. Here is a story:

THE OX AND THE FLEA

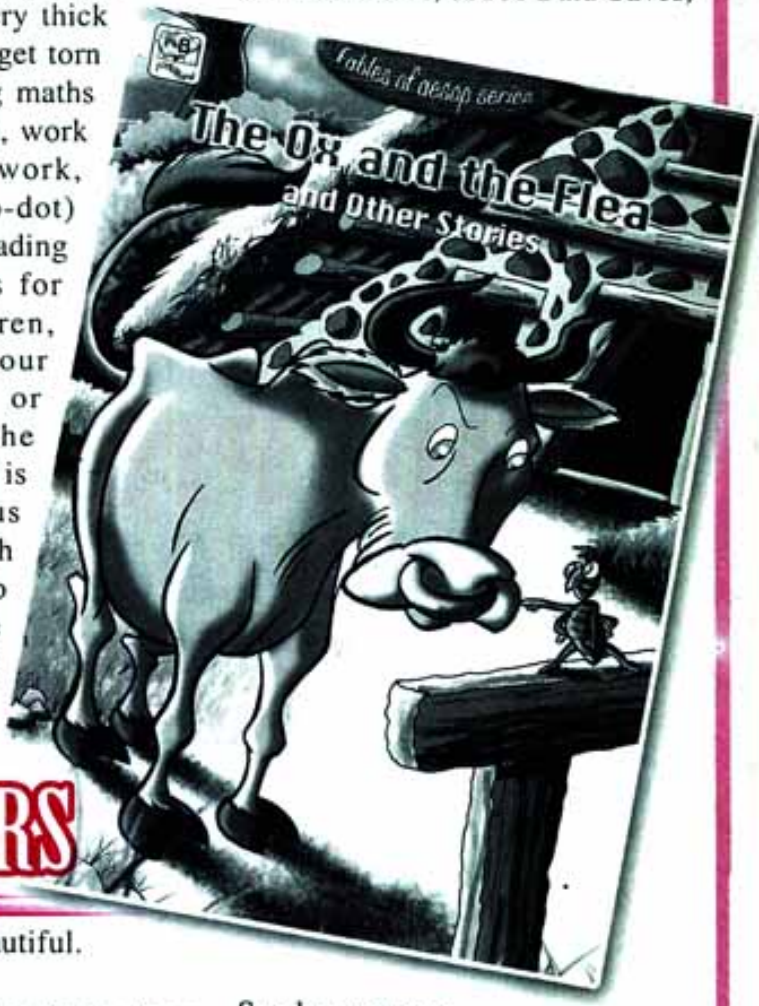
Once upon a time, a farmer had an ox. The ox worked hard for the farmer and farmer took care of the ox. Every evening the farmer would feed the ox and pat him lovingly on the head.

There was a flea that had made its home in the ox's shed. The flea would bite the poor ox all over. He would also taunt the ox saying, "You fool, you work so hard for the farmer and all he gives you is some oats and a pat on the head. Why do you feel so happy when he pats you? The poor ox just kept silent.

One evening, the flea came and sat on the ox's head to bite him. But he did not notice the farmer coming. The farmer, not noticing the flea patted the ox on the forehead. The flea fell to the ground badly hurt by the farmer's hand. Later when the farmer left, the ox looked down at the fallen flea and said, "Now you see how the farmer's pat helped me. It has helped me get rid of you."

Moral: Harm always comes to those who harm others.

Kiddibird has many types of books: Board books (books that come with very thick pages that cannot get torn easily), interesting maths and science books, work books (sticker work, colouring, dot-to-dot) etc. The Happy Reading Series has books for smaller children, maybe for your younger sister or brother. "The Unlucky Goldfish" is about a curious goldfish which keeps getting into trouble. The pictures in this book are really beautiful.



READERS

The nice thing about these books are that they are made of good paper, are very colourful and are not costly. (Aesop Fables books cost Rs.35 each). They are published and marketed by Kiddibird Sdn Bhd, No.19 & 21, Jalan SBC 6, Taman Sri Batu Caves, 68100 Batu Caves, Selangor, Malaysia. But all books in this series are not interesting. When you choose, look into the books and see if the stories are not what you already know.

THE PIGLET WHO COULDN'T KEEP A SECRET!

STORY

In the animal kingdom there was a huge banyan tree where Elephant Teacher was teaching the baby animals. One day there was a new admission. It was a piglet.

Elephant Teacher said, "This is Porky. Say something about yourself Porky."

Porky said "I don't know how to keep a secret."

Elephant Teacher said, "That is okay. Go and sit there." He sat next to Joey.

There was a mischievous monkey in the class. He told Porky. "Hey! I put some mud into the gluttonous goat's snacks!"

"Porky raised his hand. Elephant Teacher said "What is it Porky?"

He said "Ma'am, mischievous monkey said he put mud into the gluttonous goat's snack box."

Elephant Teacher ordered. "Monkey! Go out of the class but don't go home."

Monkey was waiting to get his hands on Porky.

Elephant Teacher said "Let us revise the words we learnt yesterday." Everybody raised their hand with words, except Porky. He was looking at Snake and then raised his hand.

Elephant Teacher asked "What Porky?"

Porky said, "Ma'am, Snake's brought a magic eraser to school!"

Elephant Teacher ordered, "Snake! Go out of the class but don't go home."

Snake wanted to do exactly what mischievous monkey wanted to do.

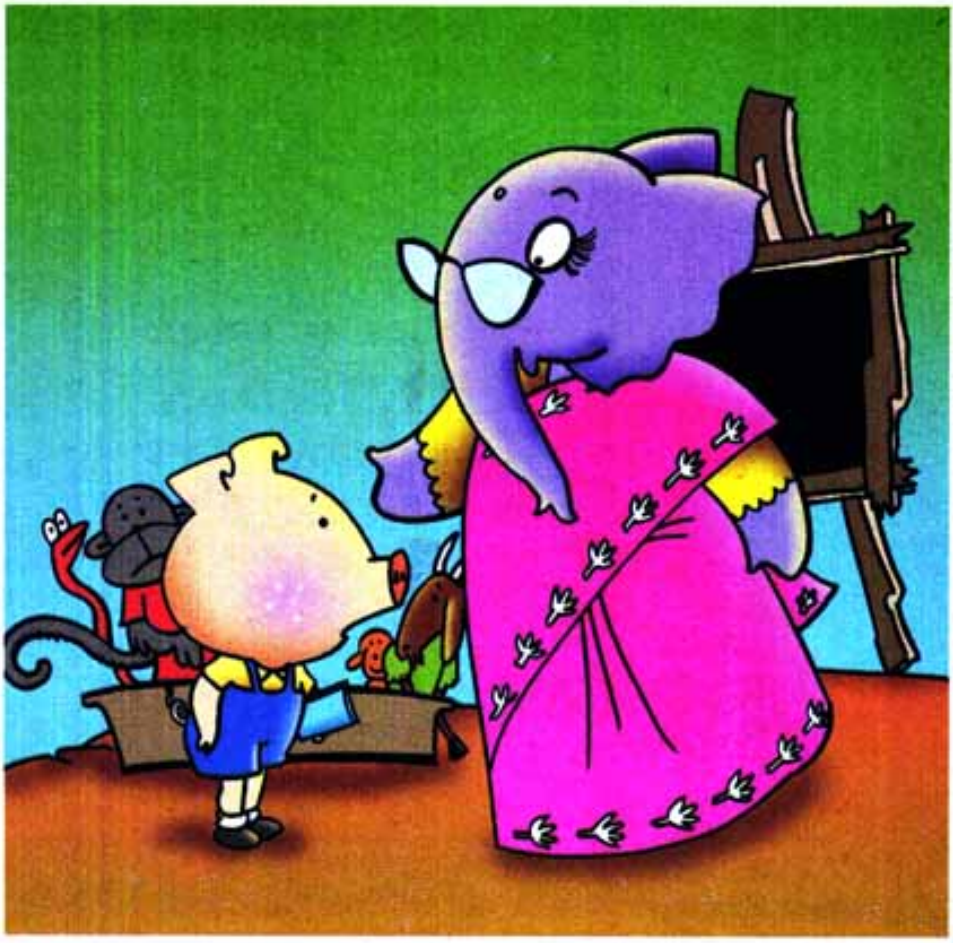
When Elephant teacher turned

towards the board a paper rocket flew past. Porky raised his hand. Elephant teacher said with a grin, "What Porky?" Before he could open his mouth, Joey admitted that he flew the rocket. Elephant teacher ordered, "Go Joey! Out of the class. But don't go home! What did you want to say Porky?"

And... Porky said, "I did not know who threw the rocket!"

Joey hit himself and wanted to do what Monkey and Snake wanted to do. When the 'home bell' rang Porky dashed off home never to return to school again!

- Sanjana Rangan,
Std IV, National Public School,
Bangalore



1. Adjust one match stick so that equality is valid.

2. Add one match stick so that this equation is correct:

3. Without adding an extra match stick make these 9 matchsticks 10.

4. Separate these 7 dots by using only 3 match sticks.

- G. Sai Arjun,
Std VII, DAV Boys SSS,
Chennai

MATCH PLAY!

1. What do you get from a pampered cow?
2. What do prisoners use to call each other?
3. Where do polar bears vote?
4. Where do snowmen keep their money?
5. What did the grape do when it got stepped on?
6. Why don't skeletons fight each other?
7. Light as a feather, nothing in it, a strong man can't hold it, more than a minute.

JUMBLES

1. I am a 11 letter word; I am a Union Territory of India; My fifth letter is I; my first four letters is a water body; My last six letters is a fruit; Who am I?
2. Which sentence has all the English letters in them?
3. I have a neck, but no head and I have hands, but no fingers. Who am I?
4. Write hundred words without letters A, B, C ?
5. I am a domestic faithful animal; God! not clear...? Who am I?
6. 'TRHEA'- Jumbling these letters, you get two words. One word is a planet and another is an organ. What are the words.
7. Which is the coolest letter in the English alphabet?

- N. Prajorpathikalai, Perumathur, Bhuvanagiri

Ans:

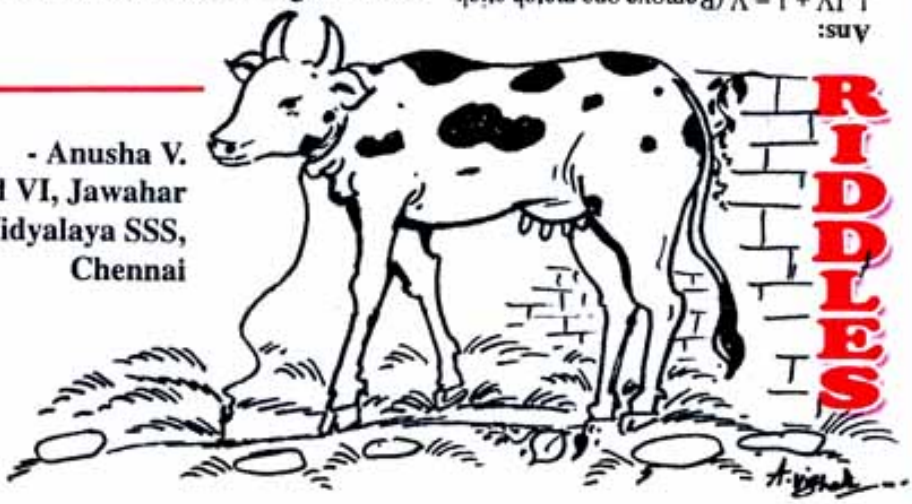
1. IV + I = V (Remove one match stick from the Roman II.Add it to the subtraction sign)

2. 545 +5=550 (Add one stick over + so that it makes 4) 3. TEN 4.

1. Spoilt milk 2. Cell phones 3. The North 'Pole' 4. In snow banks 5. It let out a little wine! 6. They don't have the guts. 7. Breath

1. Pondicherry 2. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. 3. Shirt 4. One to hundred 5. Dog 6. Earth and heart 7. B- Because it is between AC.

RIDDLES



- Anusha V.
Std VI, Jawahar Vidyalaya SSS, Chennai

Once the famous Mughal Emperor Akbar announced in his court: "One who can beat my courtiers by his or her superior intelligence will get a huge reward. Many intelligent men came but couldn't beat Akbar's courtiers.

One fine morning a Pundit presented himself at the court. "I have come from a long distance to meet you, your Highness" he said.

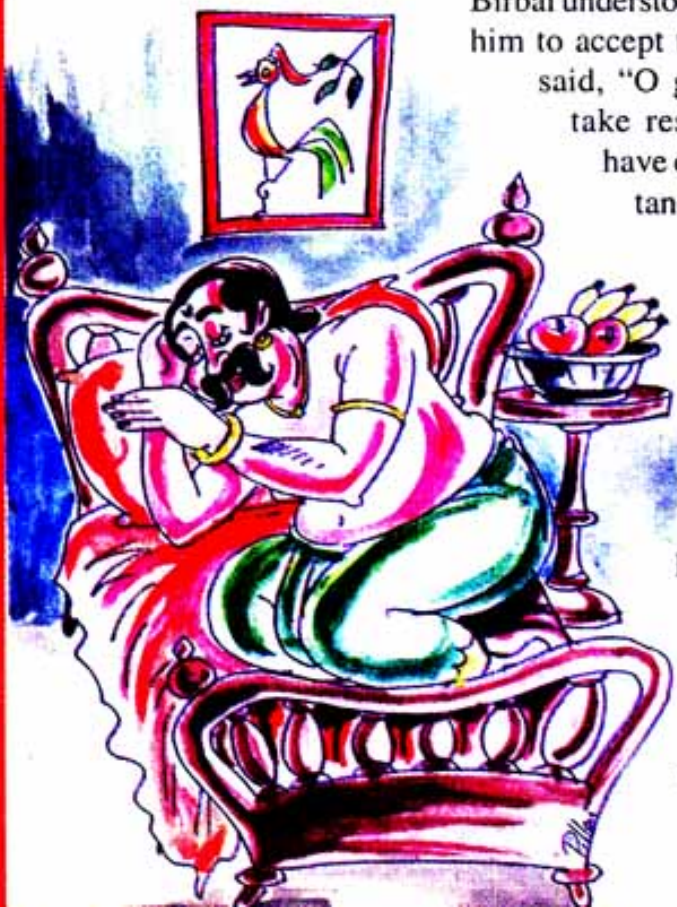
"Well", said Akbar, "what is it you came for?"

"Your Highness, I have come with a challenge. I can speak a number of languages fluently. I can speak Tamil, Hindi, Gujarati, Sanskrit, Punjabi and Telugu!" the Pundit said.

He spoke all the above mentioned languages fluently. The courtiers in Akbar's court asked many questions in these languages. He gave the correct answers and spoke in the respective languages.

"Well, your Highness now that I have proved that I can speak many languages. I have a question for the courtiers. "Who can identify my mother tongue?" he asked.

Now, Akbar looked at Birbal. Birbal understood that Akbar wanted him to accept the challenge. So he said, "O great pundit! Please take rest overnight as you have came from a long distance."



The Pundit agreed to the proposal. He was very proud of himself and sure that noone could answer him.

At night, after a hearty meal, the Pundit went into a deep slumber. Birbal was eagerly awaiting this moment. He took a

very light and soft feather and started tickling the Pundit's ear. The Pundit was half awake and said, "Who is that", in Telugu. Birbal quietly went out of his room.

Next morning Birbal and the Pundit were in the court. Akbar asked, "Have you found out what is his mother tongue?"

"Yes, your highness! I have found out. His mother tongue is Telugu.

Akbar was delighted to hear this.

The Pundit was upset. "Can you prove it?" he challenged Birbal.

"Yes I can" said Birbal and described the whole story in the court!

Everyone praised Birbal for his superior intelligence.

The Pundit was astonished and taken aback. Because he was proud of him self and had thought that no one could defeat him.

Intelligence and wisdom are superior to pure knowledge.

- Payal Prasad
Std - V, National High School, Kolkata

Birbal & The Pundit

I WANT TO BE WORLD FAMOUS!

Dear Grandma,

I have completed tenth standard. I am good at science subjects and I want to pursue them for my college career. But I am bad in Maths. How do I cope up with the next two years?

- Minakshi Ray, Puri

Dear Minakshi,

If you are really keen on science subjects - Physics, chemistry and biology - then I suppose you do have to study maths too, though you may not like it. In my school days we had a separate science group (without maths) but today the groupings have been made more difficult. I sympathize with you, but what cannot be cured has to be endured!

★★★

I've acted in some serials on T.V. Now I have a Telugu movie offer. But I don't know Telugu. I also want to be known all over the world! Please help!

- Shammu, Hyderabad

Dear Shammu,

These is nothing wrong in your aspiring to become world famous. But everybody cannot be a Satyajit Ray or Aishwarya Rai. You just have to do your very best in all your attempts and leave the rest to God. Develop a state of mind by which you can accept both success and failure with equal ease. International recognition can't come overnight. As regards the Telugu movie offer, nowadays it is enough if you understand your part and act well. In case your pronunciation is not upto the mark, it's easy to dub another person's voice. So good luck and best

wishes for a glorious future!

★★★

I am interested in biology but I don't want to become a doctor. I prefer graduating in microbiology or biotechnology. But my parents keep telling me that I will be better off as a doctor! What should I do?

- Apuroopa,
Hyderabad

Dear Apuroopa,

You may be better off as a doctor from the monetary point of view. But will you be happy? Ask yourself this question, while planning your future. Any job or profession, unless it brings joy to the heart, will not be satisfying. A microbiologist is as important to society as a doctor. Biotechnology is the most sought after course today all over the world. It is an exciting subject and has opened up immense possibilities. To one who is really interested, it is satisfying both mentally and monetarily. Talk to your parents and convince them of your choice.

★★★

I have written many short stories and my friends and teachers say they are good. What should I do next?

- R. Adithya,
Karim Nagar

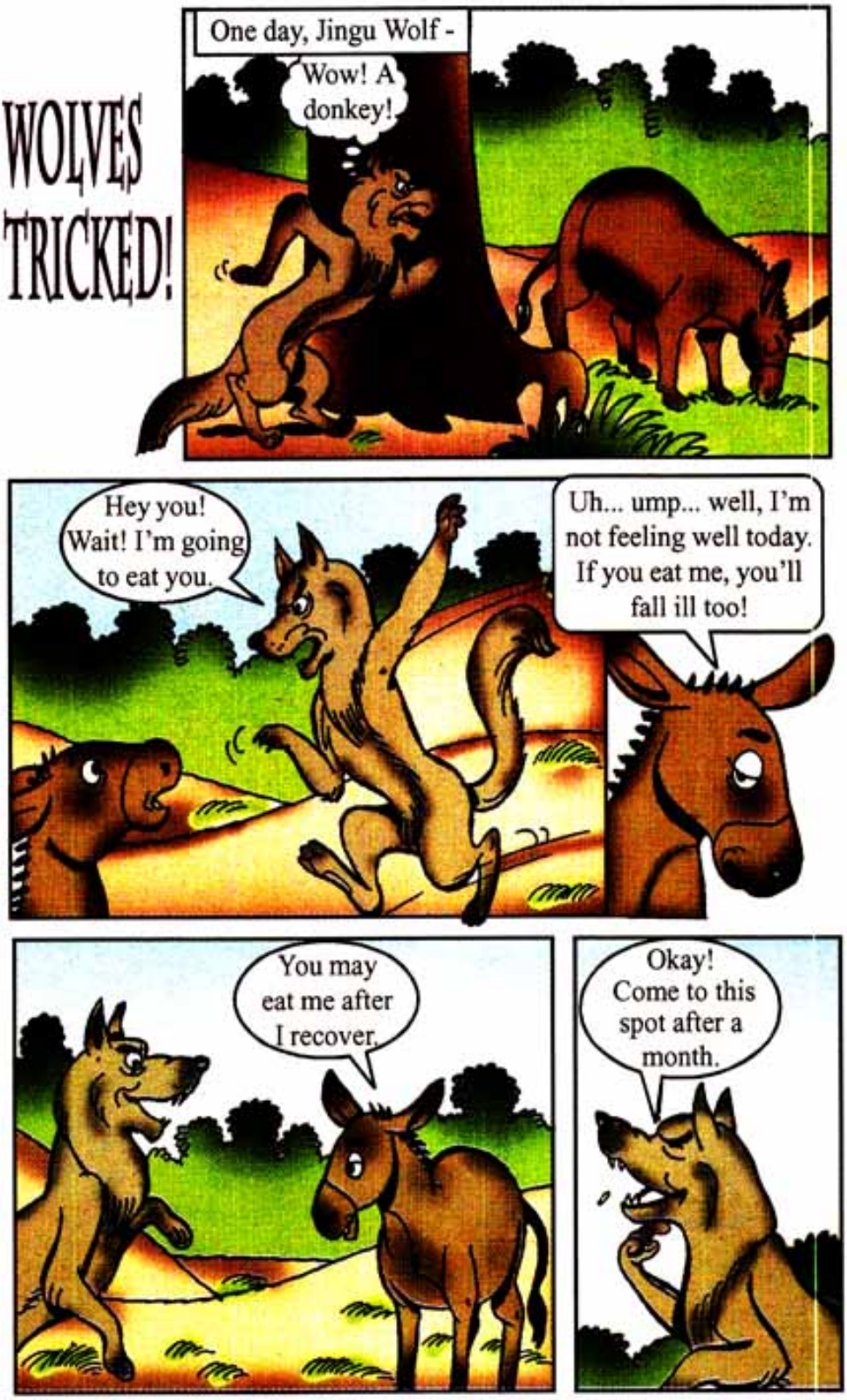
Dear Adithya,

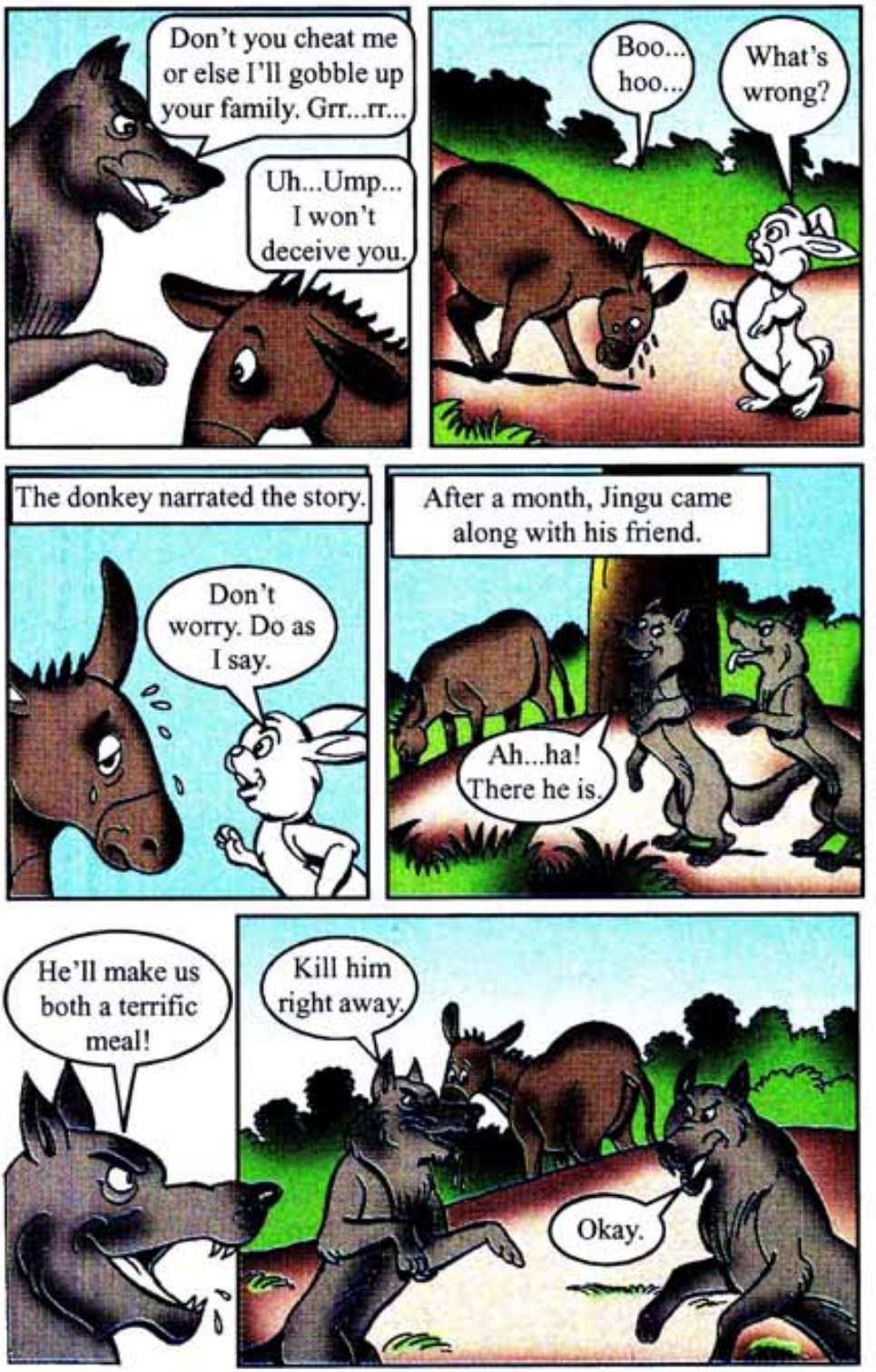
Believe me, it is not easy to become an established writer. The first requirement is not to give up if your stories are rejected! Study them again to find out what is wrong with them and try to improve them by rewriting.

Spend some time everyday reading stories written by authors of world repute and analyse their way of handling situations, dialogues, descriptions and the language. If you are convinced that your stories are good, the next step is to send them to magazines which are likely to accept them. Don't send them as a bunch. It will irritate the editor! You will also have to send a self addressed stamped envelope as otherwise you will not know the result. Book publishers too can be approached to find out if they are interested.

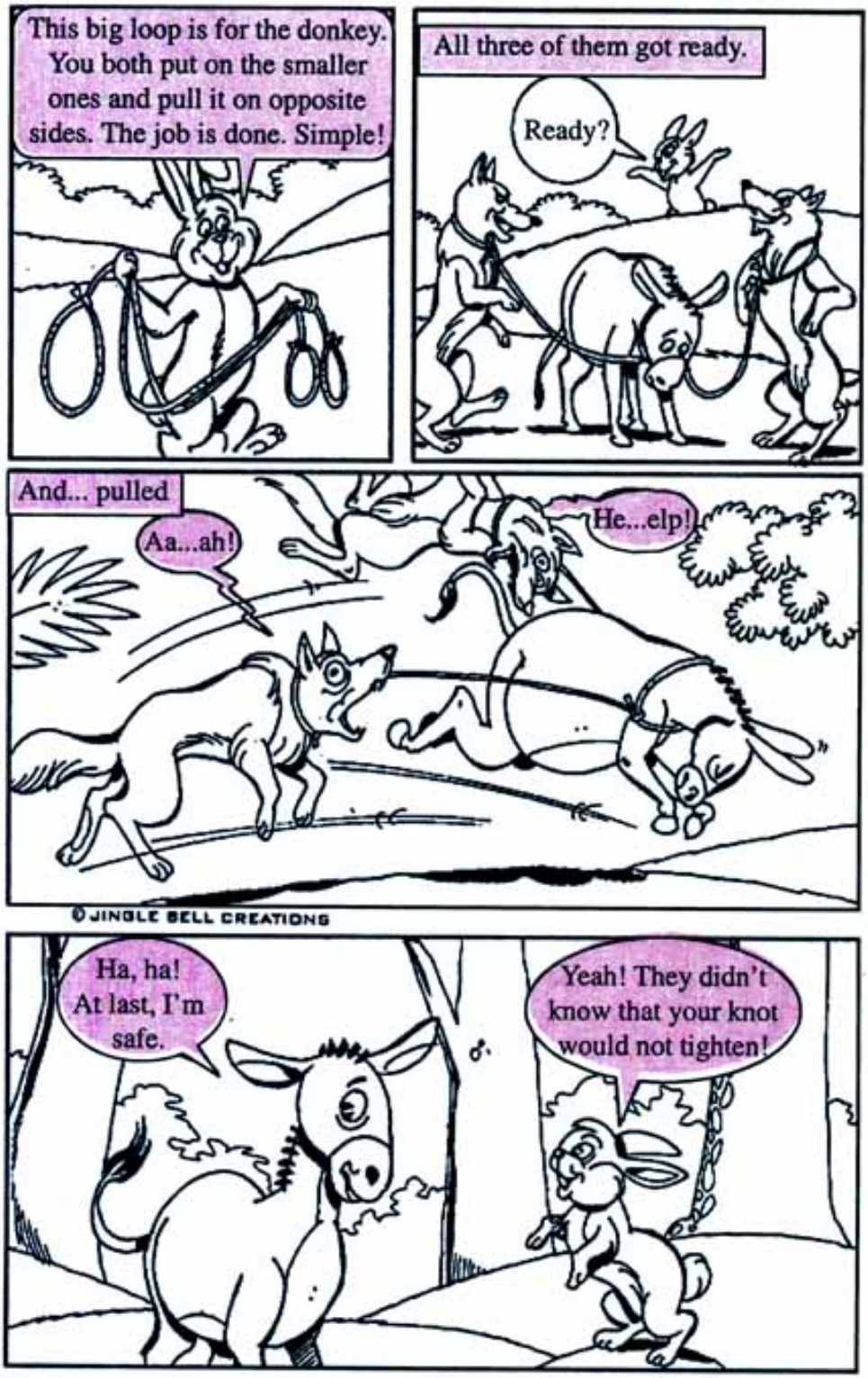
Love,
Grandmaworm

WOLVES TRICKED!

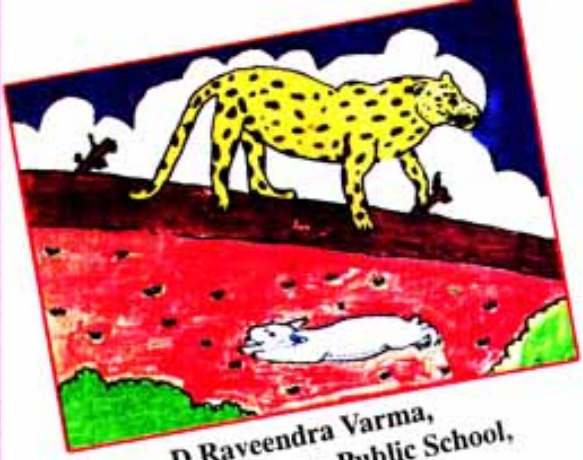



Don't you cheat me or else I'll gobble up your family. Grr...rr...
Uh...Ump... I won't deceive you.
Boo... hoo...
What's wrong?
The donkey narrated the story.
Don't worry. Do as I say.
After a month, Jingu came along with his friend.
Ah...ha! There he is.
He'll make us both a terrific meal!
Kill him right away.
Okay.

Just a sec...
What is it?
His blood is very nutritious. If you tear him it will go waste.
Oh! How can I eat him?
Strangle him! Not a drop of blood will spill.
But how?
Use this rope
Tighten the noose round his neck.
And when you pull it, he'll die, right?

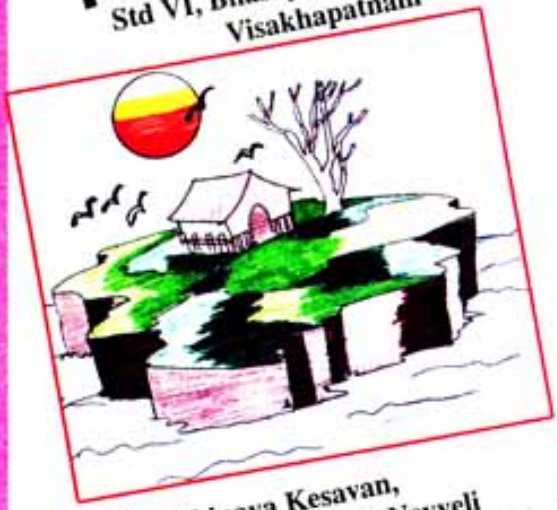

This big loop is for the donkey. You both put on the smaller ones and pull it on opposite sides. The job is done. Simple!
All three of them got ready.
Ready?
And... pulled
Aa...ah!
He...elp!
© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
Ha, ha! At last, I'm safe.
Yeah! They didn't know that your knot would not tighten!

Art Gallery



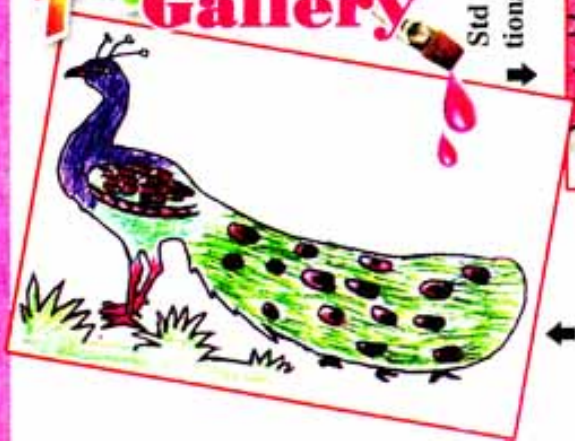
D.Raveendra Varma,
Std VI, Bhashyam Public School,
Visakhapatnam

Lalitha Swaminathan,
Std IX, National High School
For Girls, Kolkata



Abinaya Kesavan,
Std VII, Cluny School, Neyveli

Shruti Balaji,
Std V, Oakridge International School, Hyderabad



P. Bhargavi,
Std VI, Boston Mat. HS.
School, Chennai

Name : **P. Nandakishore**
Age : 14
Address : No.4, 7th Main, 12th Cross, Shreeyas Colony, J.P.Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore - 560078
Hobbies: Playing computer games, cycling, watching TV., reading Gokulam and other magazines, playing chess.

Name : **Ishrath Farheen**
Age : 16
Address : Hillpatna, 2nd lane, Berhampur - 760 005
Hobbies: Cycling, playing badminton, surfing the net, drawing, listening to music, dancing.

Name : **U.Vishnu Varsha**
Age : 5
Address : 1106, TNHB Colony, Housing Unit, Singanallur, Coimbatore - 5. Tamil Nadu
Hobbies: Painting, singing, watching TV, dancing, singing bhajan songs, writing, skating

Name : **R. Chandu Kumar,**
Age : 16
Address : MILT Residential School, Simultala, Jamui Dist. Bihar - 811 316

Hobbies: Drawing, collecting stamps, greeting cards, reading comics, gardening.

Name : **Raghavendra M.B**
Age : 12
Address : House No 114, Shirur Park IInd phase, Vidyanagar, Hubli
Hobbies: Watching TV., playing volley ball, working on computer, reading books like Harry Potter.

COME CLOSER!

Name : **K.Thanniya**
Age : 17
Address : B.25, Jalan Jati, Taman Bukit Kajang, 43000 Kajang,

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dear Readers,

* You may send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e-mail.(gokulam@kalkiweekly. com)

Remember to send in your details **- Name, Age, Class, Name and Address of school, Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation. (Source must be mentioned wherever applicable.)**

We cannot guarantee publication of all your contributions nor is it possible to inform you about when it will be published. However, if you would like us to send it back on rejection, kindly enclose a stamped self - addressed envelope.

- Editor

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

If any of your creative contributions are published in **Gokulam** you will receive a **Participation Certificate**. (Letters and queries do not qualify). At the end of the one year period ending June 2006, the contributor who has collected the maximum number of certificates will receive a special prize.

Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

Hobbies: Making friends, collecting stamps, reading books, cycling, gardening.

Name : **V.Girish**

Age : 14

Address : C-37, D.A.D Residential complex, Nandambakkam, Chennai - 600 089

Hobbies: Reading Gokulam and other books, writing poems, playing badminton,cricket and basketball, collecting coins and stamps, cycling.

Name : **Peela Srikanth**

Age : 18

Address : Nataraj Picture Palace, Bhima Road, Pendurthi, Vishakapatnam - 530 020

Hobbies : Playing, reading and surfing the net.

Name :

P. Hariram Prasad

Age : 11

Address : D.No.5, Park Town, 4th Street, PNT Nagar, Madurai - 17

Hobbies: Playing cricket, swimming, cycling, watching W.W.F, reading Gokulam and Harry Potter, participating in quiz competitions.

Teacher : Why does the Statue of Liberty have books in one hand and a torch in the other?

Student : Because you aren't supposed to read in the dark!

- Indivaram Tripathi, Imphal

BRIGHT STUDENTS!

Teacher : Write an essay on the sky.

Student : How do we reach the sky? It's so high!

- Gandharv Garg, Hyderabad

Teacher : What is a comet?

Pupil : A star with a tail.

Teacher : Name one.

Pupil : Mickey Mouse!

- R.Dhivya, Trichy

Teacher : Name a bird that doesn't build its own nest.

Pupil : Cuckoo

Teacher : Good. How do you know?

Pupil : Simple. Everyone knows the cuckoo lives in a clock.

- R. Aishwarya, Chennai

UNLUCKY SPOT!

During our Onam vacation, our family went to Veegaland, an amusement park in Cochin. We left in a Tempo Traveler early in the morning. Within 45 minutes we heard a loud noise from our vehicle. We had to stop and get the vehicle repaired at Cheppad town. We reached Veegaland only at 12 noon. We left the park at 6 p.m. after enjoying the day.

On our return journey, a strange thing happened. At the same spot where our vehicle had stopped in the morning, we had an accident. Our Tempo Traveler hit a stationery Qualis. We were terrified. The highway policemen took us to the police station. After a weary two hours there, our uncle from Kollam rushed down to take us home. After the bizzare highway incidents we reached home at midnight! These incidents took most of the pleasure off the pleasure trip!

- N.Suja, Std VII,
St.Joseph's Convent GHSS
Quilon

SCHOOL PHOBIA

One of my seniors, Apoorva was famous for bunking classes and exams. Whenever we questioned her about her absence, she would say, "I wasn't feeling well." Her 'school phobia' persisted year after year. Her board exams arrived. She went to the

headmistress to collect her hall ticket, along with her classmates. The headmistress told her, "Sorry Apoorva. Your 'attendance' is not sufficient. You can't write the board exams." Apoorva realised her folly. She had to study in Std X for one more year without absenting herself!

- V.Sri Marees, Std X, Vikaasa School, Madurai

FRIENDLY VISITOR

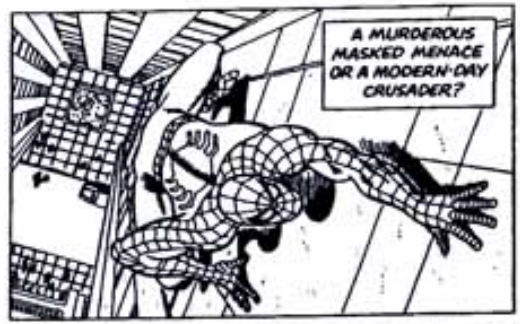
My classmates and I had gone for the Assembly (prayer) in school. When we got back to class, I found my lunch box and water bottle opened. Somebody had polished off my lunch and water without leaving anything for me. I was shocked. I asked my friends to own up if they were the culprits. They all denied having eaten my lunch. Next day I caught the hungry visitor. It was a monkey!

- K.Sridevi, Std VIII, K.V.Madurai

MISSING KEYS!

Once, when I was eight years old, my mother and I went out shopping for groceries. We decided to throw the garbage, on our way out. We completed our shopping expedition and came back home. My mother opened her purse to take out the house keys. They were missing. Suddenly a thought struck me. I asked my mother to check the garbage bin near our house where we had dropped off the garbage. Sure enough the keys were there! Since then, my mother puts the keys into her purse as soon as she locks the door!

- G.S.Anush, aged 11, Indian School, Sohar, Sultanate of Oman

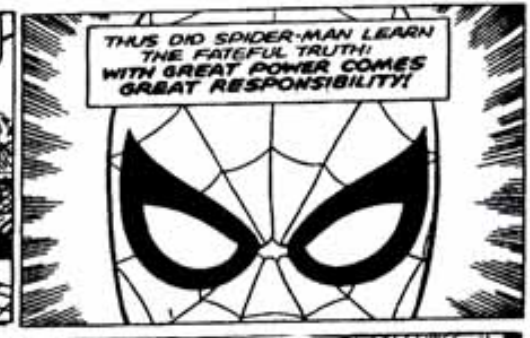


RHINO ACTING AS AN ACTOR, PLOTTED TO LIQUIDATE HIS ENEMY!

'A VILLAIN... SO STRONG? IT WAS LIKE BANGING INTO A MOUNTAIN!' THOUGHT PETER... OR... SPIDERMAN. WILL THE MYSTERY GET RESOLVED? WILL SPIDERMAN'S AIM - 'TRIUMPH OF GOOD!' - GET REALISED?

PETER PARKER RETRANSFORMED INTO SPIDERMAN AND SET OFF TO HUNT...

PITY THAT 'VILLAIN' (ACTOR) - WHERE'S HE - THE RHINO? NOT AT HOME. WHERE CAN SPIDERMAN FIND HIM IN THIS HUGE CITY? BUT HE'S GOTTA BE SAVED!



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BUT WHEN A REAL LIFE VILLAIN ACTS AS A MOVIE VILLAIN... HE HAS TO BE TACKLED! (TO BE CONTINUED)

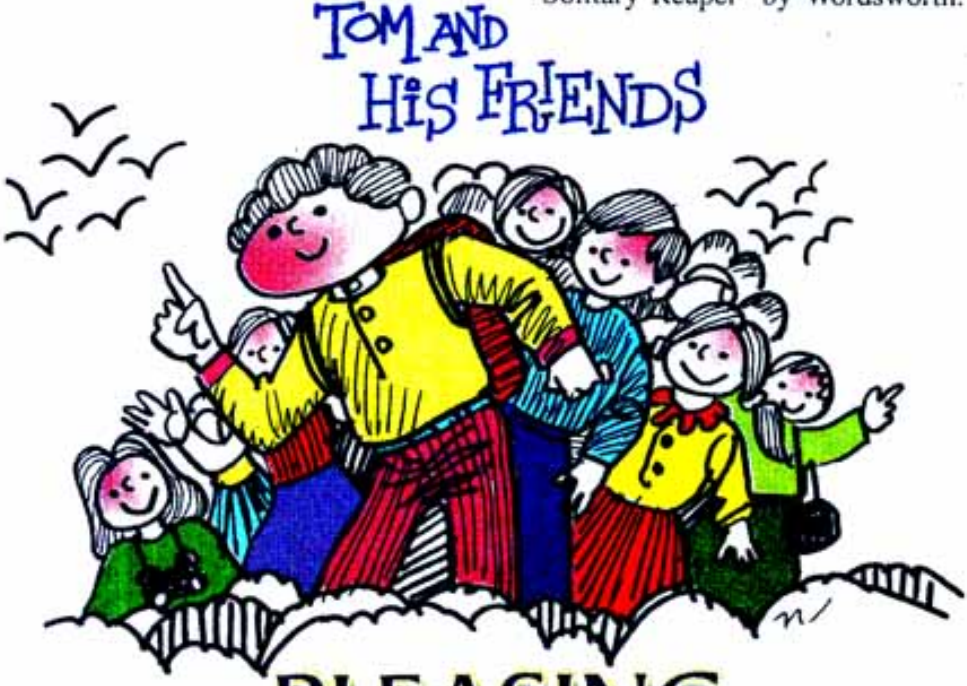
ARJUN KANNAN

Hi friends!

What makes poets like Wordsworth or Shelley great? Is it that they speak grandiloquent English? No. It is the way they present their thoughts or a circumstance in simple, yet pleasing form.They captured the hearts and minds of their audience, especially the young, with their 'romantic' poems. Let us look at one poem to understand the power of words.

"Behold her, single in the field,
Yon solitary Highland Lass!
Reaping and singing by herself;
Stop here, or gently pass!
Alone she cuts and binds the grain,
And sings a melancholy strain;
...
I listened, motionless and still;
And, as I mounted up the hill,
The music in my heart I bore,
Long after it was heard no more."

- This is an extract from 'The Solitary Reaper' by Wordsworth.



PLEASING POETRY & PROSE

He describes the sensation inside him after hearing a young girl singing a sad but melodious song. The way he presents the situation... We could easily be at the spot!

Now let us enjoy the lines of Shelley as he describes dawn:

Swift as a spirit hastening to his task of glory and of good,

The Sun sprang forth Rejoicing in his splendour,

And the mask of darkness fell from the awakened Earth.

* Solitary Reaper

The words are simple but the effect created by them is great: The mask of darkness falling away from the awakened earth; The spirit hastening to his task of glory and of good... Everyline has boundless beauty. (Poem: the Triumph of life.)

Let us pass on to prose writing. Here is a description of a person by the master story teller Somerset Maugham:

"His hair coarse but abundant and curly was white but he had kept his figure and held himself as gallantly as ever. If was not hard to believe that in youth he had been as beautiful as people said. He had still his Sematic profile and the lustrous black eyes that had caused havoc in so many a Gentile breast... He wore large black pearls in his shirt front and platinum and sapphire rings on his fingers. Perhaps he was rather flashy but you felt it was so much in character that it would have ill become him to be anything else.

Study how wonderfully he blends the appearance with the character of the person and how easy it is for us to visualise him. The words used by Maugham cannot be bettered. (Story: The Alien Corn.)

Coming to classics written for children, "Tom Brown's School Days" has been an all time favourite. Tom and his friends go bird watching (part of the school curriculum, mind you!) and they indulge in more than just watching:

"Noise enough they made certainly but it was too early in the season for the young birds, and the old birds were too strong on the wing for our young marks men, and flew out of shot after the first discharge. But it was great fun rushing along the hedge rows and

discharging stone after stone at black birds and chaffinches, though no result in the shape of slaughtered birds was obtained. An old black bird who was evidently used to the thing and enjoyed the fun, would wait till they came close to him, and then fly on for forty yards or so and with an impudent flicker of his tail dart into the depths of the quickset!"

These are magical words written by Thomas Hughes having the power to recreate the funny scene for boys and girls to enjoy for generations to come.

* Somerset Maugham

Another classic which all of you would have read at least as a retold story is 'Gulliver's Travels.' But nothing can match the humour and satire in the original version. In one chapter Jonathan Swift talks a bout the learning, laws and customs of the Lilliputains:

"I shall say but little at present on their learning which for many ages hath flourished in all its bran ches among them. But their manner of writing is very peculiar being neither from the left to right like Europeans; nor from the right to the left like the Arabians; nor from up to down like the Chinese; nor from down to up like the Cascagians; but aslant from one corner of the paper to the other, like ladies in England!

Wow! Thats what I call a punch line! Jonathan must have been waiting for an opportunity to take a dig at the ladies of England!

We can go on and on quoting beautiful and funny passages of description of nature, persons or events by great writers. Let us end this word power chapter with a passage from "Good Earth" written by the nobel prize winning author Pearl S.Buck:

"The hole (in the window) was barely large enough to admit his hand and he thrust it out to feel of the air. A small soft wind blew gently from the east, a wind mild and murmurous and fully of rain. It was a good Omen. The fields needed rain for fruition. There would be no rain this day but within a few days if this wind continued there would be water. It was good. Earth would bear fruit."

In a minimum number of words Pearl has described the plight of the poor farmer, his ancient wisdom, and his immense service to man kind. This is what we call "words pregnant with meaning."

Yedhna

ENCHANTED POOL!

Once during their exile, the five pandavas felt very tired and thirsty. They sat down to rest, but there was no water to drink.

Nakula climbed a tree, looked around and said "At a little distance I see water plants and cranes. There must certainly be water there."

Yudhishthira sent him to fetch some to drink. Nakula was glad when he got to the place and saw there was a pool. He was very thirsty himself and so thought of quenching his thirst first before taking water in his quiver for his brother; but no sooner did he dip his hand in the transparent water than he heard a voice which said. "Do not be rash. This pool belongs to me. O son of Madri, answer my questions and then drink the water". Nakula was surprised

ATTENTION READERS!

Some of you seem to be confused about the two magazines from the house of Gokulam. Your favourite magazine Gokulam, will be available as usual around the first of every month. Gokulam Calibre Comics is a pictorial monthly magazine priced at Rs. 12/-, dated 15th of every month. Read and enjoy both the magazines.

but carried away by his intense thirst and heedless of the warning, he drank the water. At once, he fell down dead.

Yudhishthira sent Sahadeva to see what happened to Nakula. When Sahadeva reached the pool he saw his brother lying on the ground but before looking into the matter he rushed to the water to quench his burning thirst. The voice was heard again but like Nakula, Sahadeva also did not heed the warning. Likewise, the other two brothers fell dead.

At last Yudhishthira came to the pool. Again, the same voice was heard. He said to the bodiless voice: "Please ask your questions." Yudhishthira answered the questions correctly. In the end, a yaksha appeared and asked "O king, one of your dead brothers can now be revived. Whom do you want revived? He shall come back to life?"

Yudhishthira thought for a moment and then replied: "May the lotus - eyed, broad - chested and long armed Nakula arise." The Yaksha was pleased at this and asked Yudhishthira: "Why did you choose Nakula in preference to Bhima who has the strength of sixteen elephants? And why not Arjuna whose prowess in arms is your protection? Tell me why you chose Nakula?"

Yudhishthira replied: "O Yaksha, Dharma is the only shield of man and not Bhima or Arjuna. If dharma is set at naught, man will be ruined. Kunti and Madri were the two wives of my father. I am alive, a son of Kunti, and so she is not bereft of a son. In order that the scales of justice may be balanced, I ask that Madri's son, Nakula, may be revived."

The Yaksha was pleased with Yudhishthira's just choice and granted that all his brothers would come back to life.

It was Yama, that Lord of Death, who had taken the form of the Yaksha, so that he might see his son Yudhishthira and test him. He embraced Yudhishthira and blessed him.

Retold by : S. Vaishnavi,
15 years, St.John's Villivakkam,
Chennai

Crocodiles shed tears when they eat.

We grow about 8mm every night when asleep, but shrink to the former height on the following day. During the day, the cartilage discs in the spine are squeezed like sponges by gravity while we sit or stand. But at night, when we sleep, the pressure is relieved and the discs swell again. For the same reason, astronuts can be temporarily 50 mm (2 inches) taller, after a long space flight.

Rafael Molina, the famous 19th century bull-fighter, killed 4867 bulls.

Rustly field is the world's most tattooed lady. Her husband has spent more than 20 years in decorating the body, with more than 2,500 designs.

Walt Disney's most popular cartoon figure, Mickey Mouse, has largest number of fans.

- Srishti Mishra,
NDMS School, Hospet, Karnataka

DID YOU KNOW?

PRIYA RAVI

In the 6th Century B.C, Siddharth, was born in Kapilavastu to King Suddhodana and Maya of the Sakhya tribe. The body of the child is said to have had 32 auspicious marks at birth. Astrologers predicted that on attaining manhood, he would either become a universal monarch or become a Buddha (a perfectly enlightened soul)

Despite a protected childhood, Siddhartha turned into an ascetic upon seeing four scenes - a decrepit old man, a diseased man, a dead man and a monk. He went on to become Gautama Buddha (Gautama being his family name) and also came to be known as Sakhya Muni. Although he was by then married to Yasodhara and had a son named Rahul, these accidental sights made him want to go beyond the miseries of wordly life, renounce the world and transform himself into a serene, dynamic monk. He gave up his family and kingdom and secretly left for the hills, where several hermits lived. He devoted himself to spiritual pursuits and Yogic practices.

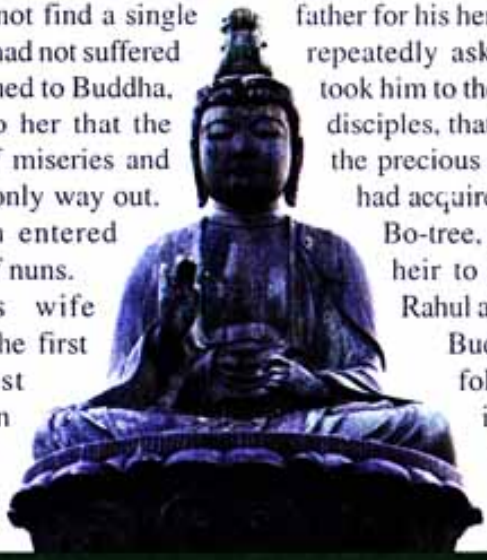
It was under Bo-tree (Pipal tree) that Buddha attained nirvana (liberation) when he had plunged into deep meditation. His face shone with divine splendour. He travelled all over India and preached his doctrine and gospel. It was during that time, that insincere Hindu priests had thrown away the preachings of the Vedas and were duping people by performing meaningless rituals. Buddha was born to put down priestcraft and animal sacrifices and saved the people by spreading the messages of equality, unity and cosmic love.

Goutama was born with the spirit of Ahimsa (non violence). Many of us are familiar with the story of how Gautama saved a bird shot by his cousin, Devdatta. Another story tells us how he prevented the king from sacrificing a goat, at the last moment, by telling him that "every creature loves to live even as every human does!" Thereupon the king issued a decree that there would be no further sacrifice and people

should show mercy to birds and beasts alike.

In another incident, Buddha was approached by a grief- stricken mother Kisagotami who had lost her only child. She refused to part with the dead child and requested Buddha to revive him. Buddha asked her to get him some mustard seeds from a house where no one - adult or child - had died. The lady went from house to house, but could not find a single household which had not suffered a death. She returned to Buddha, who explained to her that the world was full of miseries and Nirvana was the only way out. Kisagotami then entered Buddha's order of nuns.

In fact, his wife Yasodhara, was the first of the Buddhist nuns. Once when Gautama's father wanted to see



THE ENLIGHTENED!

him, he visited Kapilavastu as an ascetic. He went door to door begging for alms. His father snatched his bowl away and dragged him to the palace despite Gautama's protests. Everyone came to pay respect to Buddha except his wife. She refused to go saying that "if I am of any value in his eyes, he will come to me." She was a chaste lady who led a life of austerities. Buddha was moved to hear this. He rushed to see her. She fell at his feet and burst into tears. Buddha established the order of nuns then and there. Yasodhara was also the one who instigated their son Rahul to ask his father for his heritage. When Rahul repeatedly asked for it, Buddha took him to the forest and told his disciples, that he was passing on the precious spiritual wealth he had acquired under the sacred Bo-tree, making Rahul the heir to that wealth! Thus Rahul also became a monk.

Buddha's noble eightfold path: right opinion, right resolve, right speech, right conduct, right employment, right exertion, right thought and right self concentration, can even today lead to the cessation of suffering and sorrow. It can lead us to Buddhahood or Nirvana. Gautama Buddha thus helped create several Buddhas or many enlightened souls!

Colas are not good for health, but we still consume them. Even when our parents try to prevent us, we insist on drinking colas. But if the government imposes a ban and it is not available in school canteens we will have to stop drinking them. So I feel the Maharashtra government did the right thing.

- R.Shakthi Priya, Std VI, Sri Sankara Vidyalaya, Chennai

Samples of colas tested in labs showed a high pesticide content. Teeth placed in colas get dissolved in a few days. Colas act as slow poisons. School canteens should not sell colas and spoil the health of future generations. Natural products like fruits, fruit juices, tender coconut water, etc are ideal to quench the thirst in summer. Moreover, multinationals manufacturing colas plunder our water resources and divert the profits to foreign countries. It is high time the government bans the sale of colas not only in schools but elsewhere too.

- M. Varsha, Std IV, Holy Angels Mat. Hr. Sec.School, Salem

Some years ago, a few students of Std XI organised a cola drinking contest. The boy who drank the maximum number of colas in the given time dropped dead due to excessive carbon di oxide in the blood. A contest held for fun proved fatal for the adolescent. All state governments should follow the fabulous example set by Maharashtra, to prevent such accidents.

-Neelam Bhatia, Std VII Maheswari Public School, Ajmer

By banning colas in school canteens the government may not achieve much. This shouldn't be followed by other states. They must try to create awareness rather than impose a ban. If a child doesn't drink colas at school he might very well drink it outside school. The government must try to make students

Say 'No' to Colas!

aware of the hazards and aftermaths of colas through mass media like radio, television etc. Moreover in certain places in India there is many a child who doesn't know what a school is, there is many a school which does not have a canteen and there are many school canteens which cannot afford colas. The government's decision is right. Consumption of cola leads to tooth decay, ulcers and diabetes. Foreign brands like Pepsi and Coke take away our money to foreign countries. On the other hand, children are children, why curb their desires? It would be better to introduce fruit juices to small children and put up placards saying-

NOTE: Cola drinking is injurious to a person's health. Increase consumption of fruit juices.

- Nehaa Narayanan,
Std VII, K.V.DRDO,
Bangalore

ernment is only hitting the tip of the iceberg.

- Raghavender, Chennai

I feel that the Maharashtra

QUESTION FOR THE MONTH

The government is debating the increase of reservation for backward castes in premier institutions like IITs and IIMs.

Send us your views by 10.5.2006. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non - residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@kalkiweekly.com)

PRIZE WINNING STORY

Once upon a time, during the tree years, (like earth years and light years, you had 'tree' years) the trees in this world were gifted with the power of speech and motion! And so, they discussed politics, sports and ofcourse, their favourite topic - human beings, (just like you and I do over the telephone or the internet!)

So also, in the vast empire of Tree Queen Renuka, the trees chatted, but in their own exclusive dialect - 'Treelish', the language which humans could never understand. However, they could speak fluent English (and loved reading and learning from Gokulam's 'Word Power'!)

Reverting back to our storyline, Queen Renuka was one of the most hated rulers of the Tree kingdom - obnoxious, selfcentered mean and cruel! SIGH! On New Year's day, when all rulers announce their new policies and manifestos, Queen Renuka ordered that a new winter palace be built for her. To make place for it, many of the trees in her kingdom would be chopped down. She herself would inaugurate the "tree cutting programme." by chopping off the biggest mango tree in her garden!

News spread like wild fire amongst the trees. They were all deeply hurt and distressed. That night none of the trees slept! They were too distressed to! The lone mango tree outside the queen's bedroom, which was to be the first victim, was sobbing.

But the queen herself, was getting a new hairdo for the next day's inaugural function! But the poor royal hairdresser was having a different problem. He simply had no clue as to how to fulfill the Queen's new whim! Oh c'mon! How can you possibly have a haircut in the shape of a tree canopy, just to mark next day's event. However, rising upto the challenge, he made the final plunge into her hair and lo and behold! The queen got her new look - a bald pate!! The queen looked silly and outright hilarious! The poor hairdresser didn't quite know whether to cry or laugh, but the mango tree, who sat awake and wondering, knew exactly what to do!

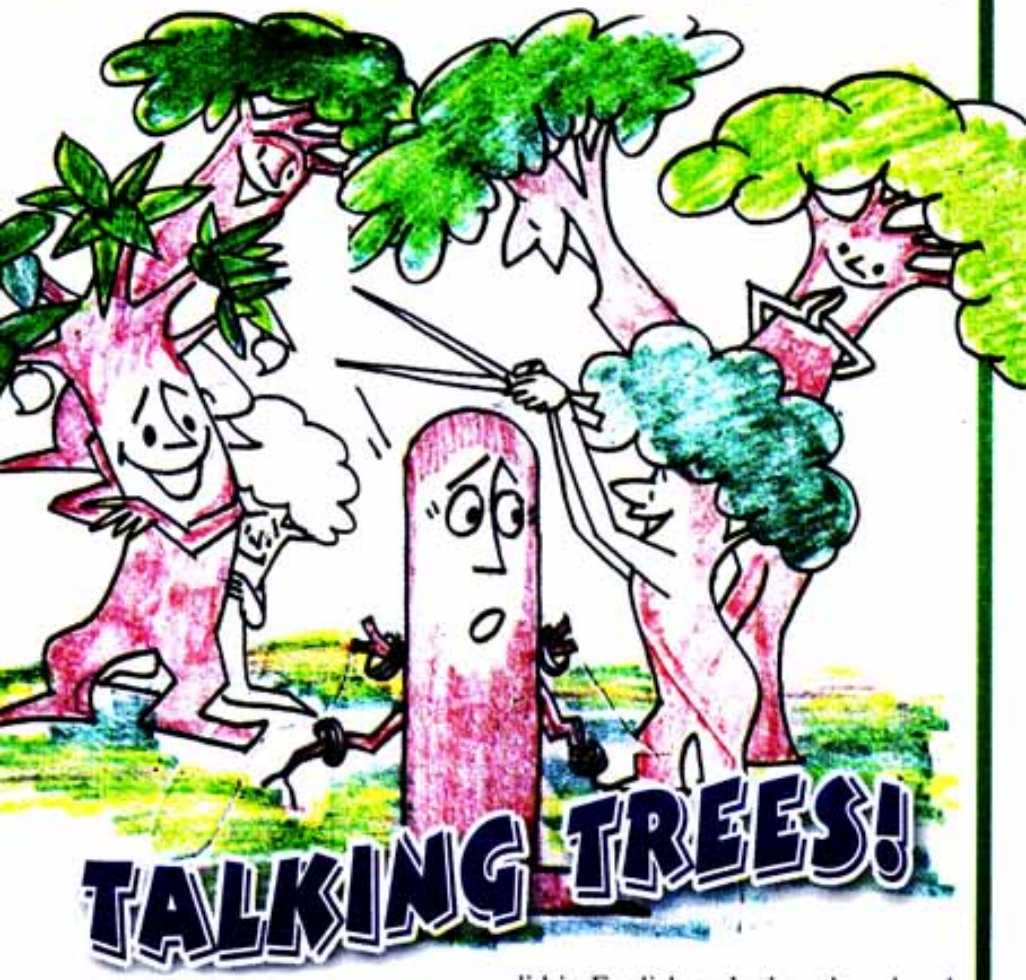
The next day dawned bright. Everybody assembled in the Queen's garden to wait for her to inaugurate the ceremony. The queen who had managed to somehow cover her baldness, was now ready with the axe!

But the moment she raised it, the mango tree began to recite in a clear, loud monotone - "The queen is bald! The queen is bald! The queen is bald!"

Slowly every tree, plant, creeper, bush and shrub in the Queen's garden and then, the whole kingdom joined

in the chorus. Soon, the entire kingdom reverberated with the chant and ofcourse, non stop laughter. The very thought of having a silly "bald" queen made them roll on their sides laughing! The Queen's face was red hot with embarrassment! Unable to put up with the humiliation anymore, she disappeared into the depths of the forest! So, the trees were saved and the subjects had a new and wiser ruler who loved his people and the talking trees too!!

(Even today, the trees speak to each other in Treelish, but sometimes when their own existence is threatened they speak out, like they did in English and when they do, oh Boy! They do have a lot to say!!)



- Deepika Sriram,
Aged 14, Tagore International School, New Delhi

FEEDBACK

✉ I am a Gokulam fan. I travel 35 kms from my village to Trichy to buy my copy. Gokulam has helped me a lot to improve my English skills.

- M. Purushothaman, Thanneerpalli, T.N.

✉ Thank you for the Dhoni poster in the interesting and colourful April issue of Gokulam.

- Kumal Bharucha, Mumbai

✉ The April issue was awesome especially for Narniamaniacs like me.

- K.R.B. Dhaarani, Chennai

✉ Gokulam is the best magazine for children and teenagers. I thank the editor for making each and every issue so exciting.

- Thanniya, Kajang, Malaysia

✉ I was thrilled to receive a 'gift' from Gokulam for narrating my experience in the March issue. Hats off to Gokulam for encouraging us and building up our confidence.

- S. Aparna, Coimbatore

✉ Krish Cross Contests are indeed challenging. My 13 year old daughter, an ardent Gokulam fan solves it, posts it at once and waits for the next issue only to find that her name is not amongst the lucky winners. Mothers like me are greatly moved to watch the drooped faces of these 'unlucky' children who despite solving it correctly cannot see their names in print! Could you at least list the names of children who have sent in all correct entries before the last date?

- Sharda Rajgopalan, Raipur

We do appreciate the sentiments of children and their parents. However we regret that since we receive hundreds of correct entries, we are unable to publish all the names.

- Editor

NEWS ANALYSIS

The President, acting on the advice of the Election Commission, disqualified Jaya Bachchan from Rajya Sabha membership. The reason was that she was holding an office of profit as Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh Film Development Council. Following this there were accusations that many other M.P.s including Sonia Gandhi were holding such offices of profit. An anguished Sonia, resigned from the Lok Sabha as well as from the post of Chairperson of the National Advisory Council. She's seeking reelection from the same constituency Rae Bareli.

Many other M.P.s and M.L.A.s of various parties are in the same plight as that of Jaya and Sonia and there is a move now to redefine "office of profit" and to pass suitable legislation in Parliament.

Medha Patkar went on an indefinite fast, demanding a halt to the constructions of the Narmada dam. Many people including adivasis will be displaced by the reservoir of the dam. Ms. Patkar feels that the government is dragging its feet in the matter of their rehabilitation. Medha Patkar has since been arrested and hospitalised. The government has also assured her that it would look after the welfare of the people affected.

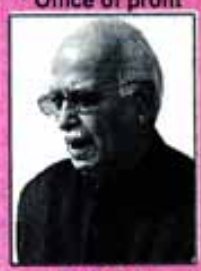
Advani has commenced another Rath yatra, the "Bharat Suraksha Yatra", from Rajkot in Gujarat. He is gathering support for his party and the Ram Mandir issue.

An inferno swept through the Trade Fair in Meerut, damaging the entire fair, killing more than fifty people and injuring double that many. Short circuit is the suspected cause of the fire and the U.P. Government has been accused of negligence in allowing the fair to be conducted, without taking proper precautions.

Wooing the Voters

Wooing the voters is in full swing in Tamil Nadu. Every party is promising something or other free to the public, provided they are voted to power. The free gifts include everything from land or TV sets to rice or gas stoves! Intelligent voters know that there is no such thing as free gifts and everything comes only out of their own money, paid to the government as taxes.

* Office of profit

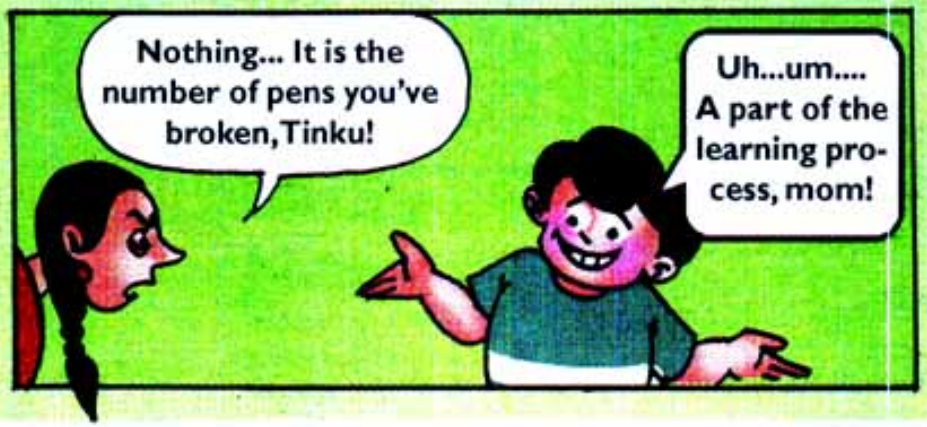


* Rath Yatra

* Indefinite fast

Tinku

Story, Pictures : Pillai



GOKOO'S ACTIVITY PULL-OUT!

with the help of an adult,
carefully pull out this activity booklet.

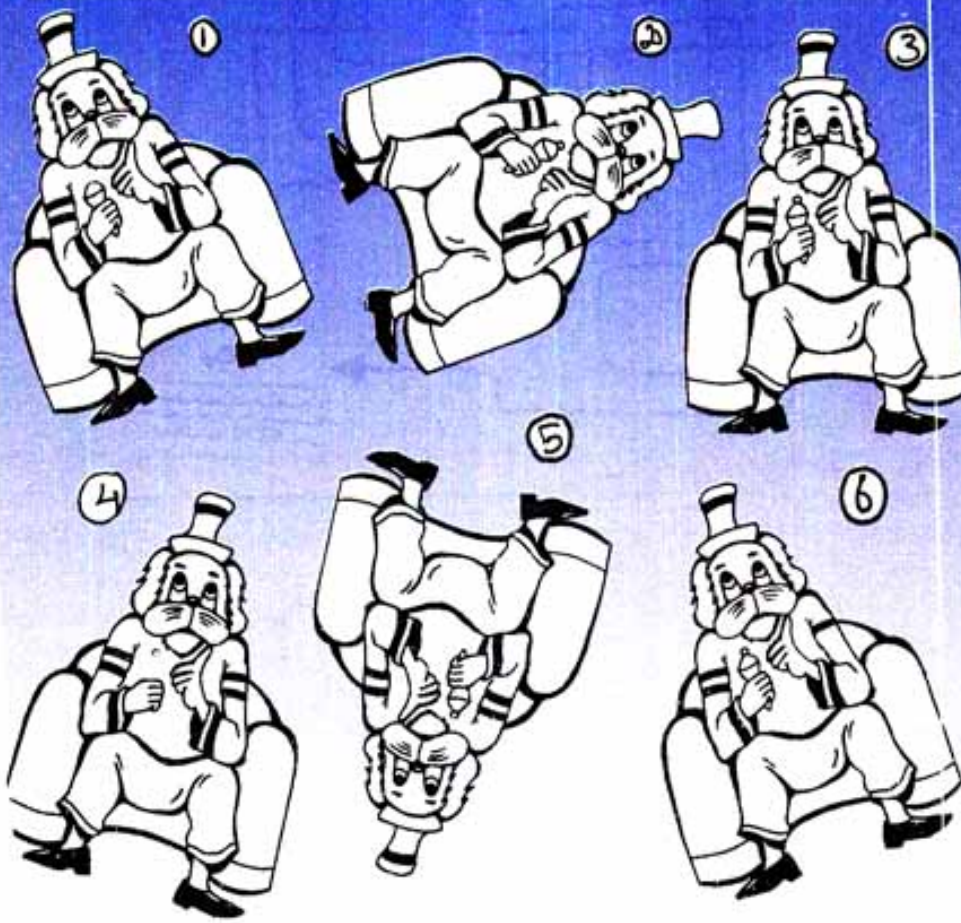
MEMORY GAME!

2 TO 3 PLAYERS MAY PLAY THE GAME.
GLUE THIS PAGE ONTO A THIN CARD. CUT OUT THE TWELVE CARDS AND PLACE THEM FACE DOWN ONTO THE TABLE. PLAYERS TAKE TURNS TURNING 1 CARD FACE UP. EACH PLAYER TRIES TO COLLECT CARDS TO ADD UP TO EXACTLY 21. IF THE PLAYER WISHES TO KEEP A CARD, HE MAY. IF HE CHOOSES TO REPLACE IT, HE MUST KEEP IT FACE DOWN. THE WINNER IS THE FIRST PLAYER TO COLLECT CARDS ADDING UP TO 21.
HINT: TRY TO REMEMBER WHERE AND WHAT THE CARD IS, IF IT IS REPLACED.

HELP TOMMY CHOOSE A FISHING LINE

SPOT THE FIVE DIFFERENCES

COLOUR THE IDENTICAL PAIR



FIND AND COLOUR THE EXACT REPLICA

JOIN THE DOTS!

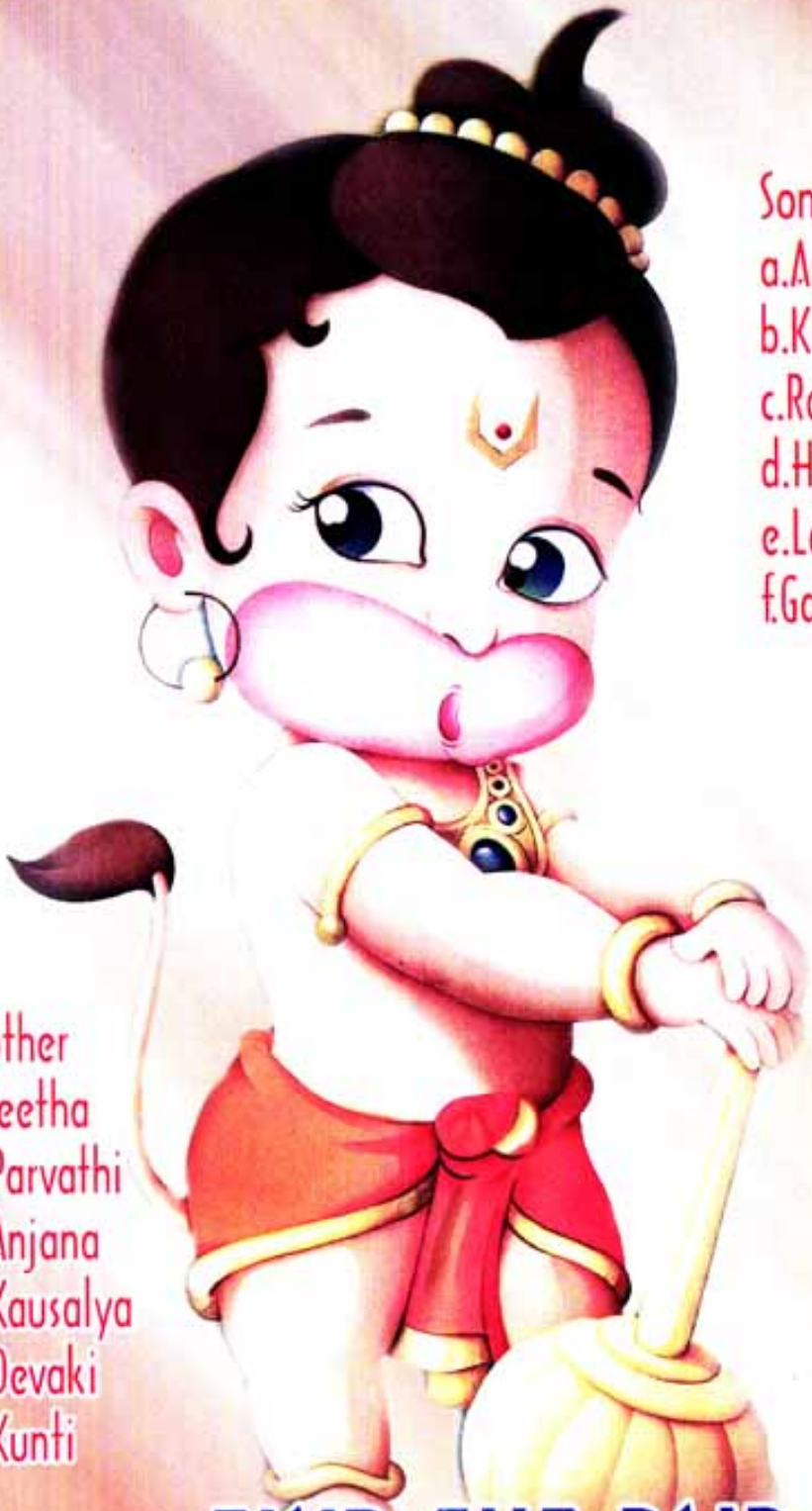
COLOUR
ANDKEEP

BLIND ARTIST!

OBSERVE THE TOP PICTURE.NOW DRAW THE MISSING FIGURES BLIND FOLDED. HINT: CHERRIES,EAR RINGS, FLAME, MATCH STICK, DESIGN (BALLOON)

HIDDEN PICTURES!

FIND THE PICTURES BELOW ON THIS PAGE



Son(s)
a.Arjun
b.Krishna
c.Rama
d.Hanuman
e.Lava,Kusa
f.Ganesha

Mother
1.Seetha
2.Parvathi
3.Anjana
4.Kausalya
5.Devaki
6.Kunti

FIND THE PAIR

Ans.1(e), 2(f), 3(d), 4(c), 5(b), 6(a)

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KERALA - COOL AND GREEN!